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THE DE MONARCHIA
OF
DANTE ALIGHIERI

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THE DE MONARCHIA
OF
DANTE ALIGHIERI

EDITED WITH TRANSLATION AND NOTES

BY

AURELIA HENRY

Soleva Roma, che il buon mondo feo,
Duo Soli aver, che l'una e l'altra strada
Facean vedere, e del mondo e di Deo.
PURGATORIO, XVI. 106

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TO

MY MOTHER

THIS LITTLE VOLUME OF FIRST FRUITS IS
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

PREFACE

THE *De Monarchia* is easily accessible in Latin editions, but an English version is practically unobtainable, at least by the American student of Dante. To be sure, it has twice been done into English, once by Mr. F. J. Church (Macmillan, 1878), and again by Mr. P. H. Wicksteed (Hull, 1896). If the former translation had not been long out of print, and the latter had not been published for private circulation only, the present volume would have less excuse for being. But with the growing interest in Dante, and the increasing number of Dante students in this country, the demand for ready access to all the poet's work becomes imperative. It is in response to this demand of the American student of Dante in and out of college that this translation has been undertaken.

In the notes which accompany the text the translator has had in mind chiefly the needs and interests of the literary student. Although the purpose of the annotation is to make the treatise

clear in whole and in part by explanation and citation, it includes the effort to indicate at every possible point the relation existing between the *De Monarchia* and the *Divine Comedy*, the *Convito*, and the *Letters*. Many of the notes may be of little use to the student of civil government or to the general reader, but it is believed their value to the literary student will prove sufficient reason for their presence. The source of Dante's theories is noted wherever practicable, his debt to Aristotle, to the Hebrew Scriptures, and to Thomas Aquinas needing most frequent mention. In the cross-references to Dante's other works the translator has endeavored to point out as exhaustively as possible the recurrence of favorite ideas, and even of favorite figures of speech, as in the case of the metaphor of the seal and the wax.[1]

The references to Aristotle, and quotations from him, are almost without exception based on the Bohn translations of Aristotle. Biblical references are to the Authorized Version, except where indication is made to the contrary. In ci-

1. See Professor Cook's list of the passages, and references to Aristotle, in *Mod. Lang. Notes* 15 (1900). 256 (511, 512).

tations from the *Summa Theologiae*, the Latin text (Bloud and Barral, Paris, 1880) has been used, save in the few cases where the translation of the *Ethics* by Joseph Rickaby (New York, 1896) is indicated. In the quotations from the *Divine Comedy*, the edition and translation of A. J. Butler (Macmillan, 1891–92) has invariably been made use of; in quotations from the *Convito*, the translation of Miss Katharine Hillard (Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1889), and in those from the *Letters*, that of C. L. Latham (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1891).

The principal Latin texts of the *De Monarchia* are those edited by Fraticelli, Florence, 1860; Witte, Vienna, 1874; Giuliani, Florence, 1878; and Moore, Oxford, 1894. The Oxford text has been followed without exception, though in a few cases variant readings have been given in the notes. The earliest edition of the *De Monarchia* was printed at Basle in 1559. It had been translated into Italian in the fifteenth century by Marsilio Ficino. There are two German versions, that of Kannegiesser, Leipzig, 1845, and that of Hubatsch, Berlin, 1872. The two English translations have already been mentioned. Of them it only remains to add that a

part of Church's translation is reprinted in *Old South Leaflets*, No. 123.

The Bibliography includes books likely to be helpful to the reader of the *De Monarchia* or the more general Dante student.

In the notes I am indebted to many commentaries and reference books. Moore's *Studies in Dante*, First Series, was indispensable for classical sources, Witte's Latin edition of 1874 for mediaeval sources, and Toynbee's *Dante Dictionary* for general reference.

I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Charles Allen Dinsmore of Boston for his kindly interest and assistance in this translation, and to Dr. Albert S. Cook of Yale University, from whom came the first suggestion of the undertaking, and a continued encouragement and aid without which its completion would not have been possible.

A. H.

YALE UNIVERSITY, August, 1903.

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INTRODUCTION

A. HENRY

INTRODUCTION

He who was "the spokesman of the Middle Ages," who saw and told of his fellow-men and their destiny, uttered a message not for one century of time only, nor of one significance. In each of Dante's larger works, the *Vita Nuova*, the *Convito*, the *De Monarchia*, and the *Divine Comedy*, this message is pronounced in one or all of its three phases, the religious, the philosophical, and the political. Because no author ever wrote with such singleness of purpose, nor through such diverse mediums carried to completion a solemn intent, the series of his productions are bound together as inevitably as the links of a chain, lending to one another meaning and value. And because these productions are so similar in purpose, if various in manner of expression, we may call them a unified message, and may apply to them all the words of explanation the poet sent to Can Grande when he presented to him "the sublime Canticle of the Comedy which is graced with the title of Paradiso." "The aim of the whole and the part,"

he wrote, "is to remove those living in this life from a state of misery, and to guide them to a state of happiness."

The recognition by the student of this desire to know and to help his brother man, which gives to Dante's writings a loftiness of tone and elevation of character that six centuries have failed to obscure, is the preventer of much misunderstanding, and the first essential to appreciative interpretation. The keynote of philanthropic endeavor Dante strikes early in the *Convito*, where he says, "I, knowing the miserable life of those whom I have left behind me, and moved to mercy by the sweetness of that which I have gained little by little, while not forgetting myself, have reserved for those wretched ones something which I have already for some time held before their eyes." And again in the *De Monarchia* the author determines to concern himself "in laboring for posterity, in order that future generations may be enriched" by his efforts. The message that Dante felt called upon to deliver to the world is, then, virtually the same in the four works we have mentioned, but in the *Vita Nuova* the religious aspect is paramount, in the *Convito* the philosophical, in

the *De Monarchia* the political, while the *Divine Comedy* concerns itself with the message as a whole. We might say that each of the first three writings has its own melody, a simple *motif;* in the *Comedy* the three themes combining swell into a movement of wondrous and complex harmony. And we might sum up the thought of the entire message in the words of Matthew: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Lowell, recognizing the ministering spirit of Dante, has said: "There is proof upon proof that he believed himself invested with a divine mission. Like the Hebrew prophets, with whose writings his whole soul was imbued, it was back to the old worship and the God of the fathers that he called his people; and not Isaiah himself was more destitute of that humor, that sense of ludicrous contrast, which is an essential in the composition of a sceptic."

Or, to put the matter more concretely, Dante had looked abroad on mediæval society, had engaged in the practical affairs of Italy, had grown to feel that he understood conditions better than other men, and so believed that he was

called of God to point out to men the right road. He beheld the two institutions that had for centuries striven to unite all Europe in a common interest — the Empire that had been revived under Charles the Great, and the Church that had attained to supremacy under Gregory VII — and he realized how sadly each had failed of its ambition. He saw, further, that despite these efforts there had come about in Europe the formation of nationalities, each differing in language and character, each having its own peculiar government, each torn by internecine strife, and each at times warring with the others. And he, together with other thinkers of that period, longed for unity among men, for unity that seemed never to be made a reality. Yet Dante believed and proclaimed that such a unity could come about, but in one way only, through a regeneration of society and a uniting of political interests under one head independent of the Church. This is the political aspect of Dante's message.

But the *De Monarchia*, though it embodies Dante's political ideals, can be read understandingly and sympathetically only when these political ideals are related to those of his reli-

gion as set forth in his other works. These in turn depend upon his theory of the universe and of moral order. To make this matter clear, we will state briefly the fundamental principles upon which Dante constructed his theory. For him the universe begins and ends with God: it begins with God the First Cause, the Primal Motor, the Maker, the Alpha of all things; it terminates in God the Ultimate End, the Great Arbiter, the Chief Good, the Omega of all things. The earth, on which dwells man, is at the centre of the created universe. About it are the nine moving heavens, according to the Ptolemaic astronomy, comprehended in the tenth, the Empyrean, the heaven which is at perfect rest because therein dwells God and Divine Love, and nothing is left for this heaven to desire. The Empyrean "is the sovereign edifice of the universe, in which all the world is included, and beyond which is nothing; and it is not in space, but was formed solely in the Primal Mind."[1] Not less fundamental than the unitary concept of the universe is that of the duality of man's nature. This duality is not only in man's nature, but in all things pertaining to him, his

1. *Conv.* 2. 4. 1.

mode of existence, his mode of acquiring knowledge. That is, man is endowed with a twofold nature, a perishable and an imperishable, a soul and a body. He therefore lives for two ends, happiness on earth and happiness to be attained in heaven. Earthly beatitude is reached by the right ordering of temporal affairs; heavenly beatitude is made possible by Papal guidance in matters of the spiritual realm. Moreover, his life is active or contemplative, governed by reason or faith, enlightened by philosophy or revelation. Armed with these two ideas, we can approach the work under consideration.

Starting from man's dual nature, the *De Monarchia* sets forth the manner in which the earthly happiness of the human race may be acquired by the right ordering of temporal affairs, the overlordship of a sole Monarch, the presence in the world of a Universal Empire. The body of the work is divided into three books, in each of which is expounded one side of the question at issue: first, the necessity of Universal Empire is proved; second, the right of the Romans to imperial authority; third, the direct bequeathing by God of this authority to the Romans without the mediation of the Church. In the

first chapter the author says, "The knowledge of temporal Monarchy, one of the most important and most obscure of subjects, is brought forth from its hiding-place and explained for the good of the world."

The first book of the *De Monarchia* pronounces that that which is the purpose or end of the human race is "to actualize continually the entire capacity of the possible intellect, primarily in speculation, . . . secondarily in action;" that "in the calm and tranquillity of peace the human race fulfills most freely and easily its given work;" that "universal peace is the best of those things ordained for our beatitude;" that "to the shepherds sounded from on high the message, not of riches, nor pleasures, nor honors, nor length of life, nor health, nor beauty, but peace."[1] Peace can come, Dante insists, only when there is one Monarch to own all, to rule all, to embrace in his dominion all kingdoms and states, to harmonize opposing princes and factions, and to judge with justice all temporal questions. And let us not forget that Dante's passionate plea for peace arises amid the uninterrupted turbulence and strife of the never-to-be-pacified Italy of his day.

1. *De Mon.* 1. 4.

In taking up in the second book the question of Rome's foreordination for supremacy, Dante makes use of what was in his day a startling premise—that, in the same manner in which the Jews were the chosen race for receiving and dispensing the religion of God to the peoples of the earth, so the Romans were the race chosen to receive and dispense the knowledge of law and justice. And in the proof at various points evidence is adduced as indisputably correct from Roman as well as Jew, from Virgil and Ovid, Lucan and Livy, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. History and poetic fiction have equal consideration and equal weight. To question his authorities never occurs to Dante. Especially from Virgil, "our divine poet," he takes his idea of the Roman Empire — from Virgil, who in his *Aeneid* and *Georgics* sang of Rome, the conqueror and civilizer of the world; Rome, of origin divine, of antiquity great, of duration eternal, of jurisdiction universal. That Dante's reasoning throughout this second division of the treatise is often based on unauthentic statements, that therefore some of his proofs are of no lasting value, it is unnecessary to emphasize. Nor less strange than those that precede it is the

final statement, the climax of the argument of the second book, that Christ by His birth under the edict of the Emperor Augustus, and by His death under the vicar of the Emperor Tiberius, confirmed the universal jurisdiction of the Roman Empire.

It is easy to object to the conclusions of the *De Monarchia* thus far, and to say that the end of man's being and God's foreordination of the Roman supremacy were fine subjects for theorizing, but that they could not carry any remedy for the evils in mediaeval Italy. It is easy to answer to them that peace was practically impossible when the Roman and Teutonic elements of society were not yet fused in the peoples of Europe; that the Roman Empire in its ancient sense had died when Romulus Augustulus laid down the sceptre in 476; that Dante entirely misapprehended the spirit of the ancient Roman supremacy; that, except under emperors of extraordinary talents, the Holy Roman Empire ever since its revival had been "a tradition, a fancied revival of departed glories;" and that, despite the endeavors of Imperialists and Papists, practically all power was in the hands of the nations as such, so that during Dante's life the Empire

was growing more German, and the Papacy more French. As Mr. Bryce says, "In the days of Charles and Otto, the Empire, in so far as it was anything more than a tradition from times gone by, rested solely upon the belief that with the visible Church there must be coextensive a single Christian state under one head and governor." Yet in the first two books, whatever quaint absurdities be present, Dante promulgates the doctrine of international peace, a doctrine that even the twentieth century does not despise.

But the invaluable part of Dante's political message, and the pith of the *De Monarchia*, lies in the third division, where are discussed the relations of the Empire and Papacy, and where Dante publishes his belief in the separate existence of the Church and State. Having recognized the presence of two chief governmental elements in Europe, having accounted for their presence by the design of God to meet the requirements of man's dual nature, and having acknowledged that these two elements are wrongfully at constant war the one with the other, Dante proceeds to show that they are both from God for the good of man, but with functions distinct and different. Especially does he prove

that the one in no way depends for its right to exist upon the other. The Papacy, he maintains, is a spiritual power, sovereign over the souls and the spiritual welfare of men, and the Empire is a temporal power, sovereign over the lives and bodily welfare of men. If Empire and Papacy exercised their authority in their own realms, the world would have no more war, than which there is nothing more to be desired in this world.

So much for the argument of this treatise, which has been called "the creed of Dante's Ghibellinism." This designation is only true in part, for, as Cacciaguida prophesies in the seventeenth canto of the *Paradiso*, "To thee it shall be honorable to have made thee a party by thyself." And Dante, though a Ghibelline, was not so in all details of his political creed. Much that this party did was beyond the pale of his sympathy, and he rebukes them harshly more than once in the *Divine Comedy*. Seeing that they have used the Imperial ensign and influence in contests where there was no question of Empire, he writes, "Let the Ghibellines work, let them work under another ensign, for he ever follows that amiss, who separates Justice and it."[1]

1. *Par.* 6. 103.

The names Guelf and Ghibelline stand for the two parties that in the name of Pope and Emperor fought so strenuously on the soil of Italy for political supremacy. On the one side, the highest power, the right of investiture, was claimed by the Emperor, who was the nominal leader of the Ghibellines; on the other, the Popes, since the eleventh century and the strengthening of Papal control under Gregory VII, had persistently claimed that right for the Church, and the Guelf party fought to establish this claim. But it must be borne in mind that in the Italy of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries these party names were often used on occasions and in disturbances where the principles for which they stood had no place, and where the purpose and end of the strife were purely selfish and personal.

In general, however, the tendencies of the two parties were clear enough. The Imperial power, looking back toward its greater day, remembering that the Roman Emperor had once been Pontifex Maximus, and that authority must stay with the few, and those by precedent the nobles of ancient name, arrogated to itself all power, and maintained in all contests the

cause of the nobles against the commons, the claims of antique titles against those of new-won wealth. The Church, moved by the true democracy of Christianity, as well as by the selfish wish to keep her hand on the pulse of the nations, and to prevent a centralizing influence in northern Italy, maintained the cause of the municipalities, fostered the independence of the cities, discouraged unity of action and aim among them, and at times sought to release whole nations from allegiance to their king.

The clearest statement of the claims of the Church in the fourteenth century is found in the *Unam Sanctam* of Boniface VIII, published in 1302. Boniface put his theory into practice more than once, and sometimes with amazing success. It is said that, seated upon the throne of Constantine and arrayed in crown, sceptre, and sword, he announced himself to the throngs of pilgrims that flocked to Rome at the jubilee in 1300, as "Caesar and Emperor." He arbitrated difficulties between Edward of England and Philip of France, and finally declared the latter excommunicate and offered his throne to Albert of Hapsburg, then Emperor.

The Imperial rights are best enunciated in the *De Monarchia*, which, as we shall try to show, was written in all probability to help establish over Italy, independently of the Church, a rightful ruler in the temporal affairs of men, a ruler pictured as ideal in an ideal condition of society. The *Golden Bull* issued by Charles IV at Frankfort in 1356 takes up constitutional and legal points that our treatise never pauses to consider. We learn much, besides, of Imperial rights from the rulings of various Emperors. The career of such a man as Frederick II in the preceding century shows how much the Empire could demand and how much obtain under a powerful leader. That of Henry VII in the fourteenth shows that the time had gone by for Imperial dominion, and how much the Empire could ask and how little obtain even under the leadership of a great man.

So Dante's *De Monarchia* is Ghibelline, inasmuch as it denies to the Church supreme command in temporal things, and recognizes a universal Monarch in temporal affairs; but it is a purer Ghibellinism than that of the party at large, for he saw Church and State only as separate powers, viewed Pope and Emperor as

equal in rank but as wielding authority in different realms; and under this twofold rule he prophesied, with enthusiasm his party could not share, that the human race would live in the calm and tranquillity of universal peace.

Turning from the treatise for a moment to a consideration of Dante himself, there is something of deep pathos in the thought that, from the solitude of an exile brought upon him by the warring of his countrymen, he should so continually and earnestly plead for peace — that its blessings, now denied to him and to all the human race, might come upon the world. How far he traveled in search of "the best of those things ordained for our beatitude," we learn in another work. He declares to the spirits in Ante-Purgatory, "If aught that I can do pleases you, O spirits born to bliss, do ye say it, and I will do it for the sake of that peace which makes me, following the feet of a guide thus fashioned, seek it from world to world."[1] And though he could not bring peace to self-willed Italy, he found it for himself in unquestioning obedience to the will of God, and sang forth his triumph and joy in the immortal line, "In His

1. *Purg.* 5. 61.

will is our peace." It is not strange that a sympathetic and imaginative mind should have drawn the famous picture of the seeker of peace among the mountains, at the Monastery of Santa Croce del Corvo. Though Fra Ilario's apocryphal letter is so well known, I quote the description given therein: "Hither he came, passing through the diocese of Luni, moved either by the religion of the place, or by some other feeling. And seeing him, as yet unknown to me and to all my brethren, I questioned him of his wishings and his seekings there. He moved not; but stood silently contemplating the columns and arches of the cloister. And again I asked him what he wished, and whom he sought. Then, slowly turning his head, and looking at the friars and at me, he answered 'Peace.'"

The date of the *De Monarchia* is uncertain as far as historical evidence is concerned, and any attempt to establish unquestionably the time of its composition is met with insurmountable obstacles. To be sure, the earliest biographers of Dante mention the work, and Boccaccio gives some interesting notes of its history, but Boccaccio is also the only one of them who attempts

to assign a period for its composition. He writes in his *Life of Dante*:[1] —

"At the coming of Henry VII, this illustrious author wrote another book, in Latin prose, called the *De Monarchia*. This he divided into three books, in accordance with three questions which he settled therein. . . . This book, several years after the death of its author, was condemned by Cardinal Beltrando of Poggetto, papal legate in the parts of Lombardy, during the pontificate of John XXII. The reason of the condemnation was this. Louis, Duke of Bavaria, had been chosen King of the Romans by the electors of Germany, and came to Rome for his coronation, against the pleasure of the aforenamed Pope John. And while there, against ecclesiastical ordinances he created pope a minor friar called Brother Piero della Corvara, besides many cardinals and bishops; and had himself crowned there by this new Pontiff.

"Now inasmuch as his authority was questioned in many cases, he and his followers, having found this book by Dante, began to make use of its arguments to defend themselves and their authority; whereby the book, which

1. *Earliest Lives of Dante*, tr. James R. Smith, p. 69.

was scarcely known up to this time, became very famous. Afterwards, however, when Louis had returned to Germany, and his followers, especially the clergy, began to decline and disperse, the aforesaid Cardinal, since there was none to oppose him therein, seized the book and condemned it in public to the flames, charging that it contained heretical matters.

"In like manner he attempted to burn the bones of the author, and would have done so, to the eternal infamy and confusion of his own memory, had he not been opposed by a good and noble Florentine knight, by name Pino della Tosa. This man and Messer Ostagio da Polenta were great in the sight of the Cardinal, and happened to be in Bologna, where this matter was being mooted."

But if Boccaccio unhesitatingly names the occasion and approximate date of the *De Monarchia*, Lionardo Bruni (1368–1444), who wrote a biography of Dante somewhat later, dismisses the treatise with brief but unfavorable comment. "He also wrote in Latin prose and verse: in prose, a book entitled *De Monarchia*, written in unadorned fashion, with no beauty of style." We will not stop to contradict Bruni's

criticism, but merely note that his statement has no chronological value.

Giovanni Villani, the first historian of Florence, gives a most appreciative but far too brief account of the poet in his *Cronica:*[1] "He also wrote the *Monarchia*, where he treats of the offices of popes and emperors." That is all the information Villani vouchsafes on our subject.

If we could believe Boccaccio implicitly, any further search for the date of the *De Monarchia* would be idle; but Boccaccio has proved himself untrustworthy in many instances, and in this case, whether his statement rests on his own assumption, whether he took it from current tradition, or whether he knew whereof he spoke, we shall never be able to prove absolutely. However, we can to some extent strengthen or weaken Boccaccio's claim to belief by internal evidence in the writing itself. Unfortunately, there is a singular absence of such evidence in the *De Monarchia*. This book stands unique among the works of Dante in its impersonal nature, whereas his writings generally are marked by their strongly autobiographic character. In

1. See lib. 9, cap. 136; tr. Napier's *Florentine History*, bk. 1, ch. 16; also Dinsmore, *Aids to the Study of Dante*, p. 61.

it is no personal reference definite enough to indicate any certain time in the author's life; there is no unmistakable allusion to contemporary events; nor is there mention of any other of his own writings either finished or planned. Nevertheless, the fact that the book is in Latin and is of polemical nature, the parallelism of expression between this and other works, the confession of political experience in the first book, of changed political views in the second, and the indirect allusion to his own exile in the third, are clues which various scholars have followed up with zest, and from which they have arrived at three differing conclusions as to the time of its composition.

Some Dante students think the work was written previous to Dante's exile, January 27, 1302, most probably during his political life in Florence; others believe it to be a heralding or commemoration of the coming of Henry of Luxemburg to Italy, and would place it between 1308 and 1314; a third class consider it more probable that it is one of the last labors of the author, and assign it to some period between 1318 and 1321.

Scartazzini has stated very clearly the points

in favor of each of the three views, and commented on each in turn.[1] But before we review his line of argument, let us notice some of the more general facts of this internal evidence.

That the language of the *De Monarchia* is Latin puts it at once into comparison with the uncompleted Latin writing *De Vulgari Eloquentia*. But as the date of this second treatise is as uncertain as the first, it can in no way help us. The second treatise must have been in process of writing as late as 1308, while Villani and others date it 1321. Next, is there any marked change in opinion or power between this and Dante's other works, any differences that would betray immaturity of judgment, growth of insight, or even retrogression? No; as might be drawn from our generalizations at the beginning of this introduction, the content agrees in all essentials with the author's other writings. In the maturity of its religious faith; in the knowledge of classic and Hebrew authors; in the ideal civil polity outlined; in the concept of the universe and moral order; in the theory which makes cupidity the basic sin of mankind, and free will his most divine gift, this political

1. Scartazzini, *A Companion to Dante*, pp. 318 ff.

document agrees with the *Convito* and the *Divine Comedy*. So much alike are they that, especially in the case of the *Convito*, the order of ideas is at times the same. The phraseology is in some places identical with that of Dante's three letters written during Henry's sojourn in Italy, those written *To the Princes and Peoples of Italy*, *To the Florentines*, and *To Henry VII.*[1]

Now for Scartazzini's opinion. He gives six reasons for the theory that the date was prior to the exile in 1302. (1) As in the *Vita Nuova*, some scholars see in the *De Monarchia* no allusion to Dante's banishment, in a failure to mention which it would differ from the *Convito*, the *De Vulgari Eloquentia*, and the *Comedy*. (2) The opening paragraph is too modest for Dante, unless at the beginning of his literary career. (3) The reference made in the first canto of the *Inferno* to Dante's beautiful style must have been to the *De Monarchia*. (4) If written subsequent to 1302, the treatise would certainly contain an allusion to the *Unam Sanctam* of that year. (5) The discussion of nobility[2] differs from that of the *Convito*,[3] while the view in

1. Latham, *Letters 5, 6, 7.* 2. *De Mon.* 2. 3.
3. *Conv.* 4. 3.

the *Convito* accords with that expressed in the *Paradiso*.[1] (6) Were it not true that Dante's work was written before or very early in the fourteenth century, his assertion would be false that the subject of Monarchy had been treated by no one hitherto.

Scartazzini answers each of these objections: —

(1) In *De Monarchia* 3. 3. 12, Dante says of those who "boast themselves white sheep of the Master's flock," that "in order to carry out their crimes, these sons of iniquity defile their mother, banish their brethren, and scorn judgments brought against them." We can find no excuse for the bitterness of this statement unless the writing was after his exile, prompted by the sting of present pain.

(2) To boast of one's experience in public affairs, to undertake to enrich posterity from one's store of wisdom, as Dante does in the first paragraph to the *De Monarchia*, Scartazzini thinks can scarcely be called overwhelming modesty. Besides, the *Convito* and the *De Vulgari Eloquentia* were not brought to their present state of completion until the coming of Henry VII

1. *Par.* 16. 1 ff.

in 1311, and Dante's literary achievement would not be large until such time as these writings were known. This would allow the *De Monarchia* a date as late as this in which to have made its appearance, and yet precede them. But is it probable that both these works would fail to mention the *De Monarchia*, had it been completed prior to them? Besides, we must not forget that the author's change from Guelfism to Ghibellinism took place before this writing, as is evident from the first chapter of the second book. And though it is impossible to assert at what time such a change took place, it could not have been in the author's early years.

(3) The allusion to Dante's beautiful style in the first canto of the *Inferno*, and to the fame it had brought him, is doubtless not to the *De Monarchia*, but to the early and beautiful lyrics.

(4) The whole argument of the third book is virtually a reply to the *Unam Sanctam*, though that bull is not and could not well have been mentioned by name.

(5) As for the alleged contradiction in the treatment of the nature of nobility, it is evident that the writer's purpose was not the same in both contexts. In the *De Monarchia* he is speak-

ing of nobility that gives the possessor power, which is surely a hereditary nobility. In the *Convito* he speaks of nobility of soul, which cannot be hereditary.

(6) Dante's declaration that no one else had treated of the subject of temporal Monarchy simply means that no one whose work was worthy his consideration had done so.

Scartazzini treats, secondly, of the theory that the *De Monarchia* was written between 1318 and 1321, passing rapidly over the facts advanced in its support. Of first importance are the words found in so many of the manuscripts,[1] in the discussion of free will, "Sicut in *Paradiso Comediae* iam dixi." Were these words genuine, and not spurious as the best students of the texts affirm, we could be certain that the fifth canto of the *Paradiso* was composed before this prose work. The interesting fact that Dante's theory of the markings on the moon agrees with that of the *Paradiso*,[2] and not with that of the *Convito*,[3] is no indication that the later opinion was arrived at in the very last years of the author's life, but merely that it was later than that of the *Convito*.

1. *De Mon.* 1. 12. 3. 2. *Par.* 2. 58 ff.
3. *Conv.* 2. 14.

The last reason in favor of a very late composition is the similarity in diction and phrase with Can Grande's letter and various parts of the *Paradiso*. The similarity cannot be gainsaid, but even so the *De Monarchia* bears yet stronger likeness to the language of the letters *To Henry VII*, *To the Florentines*, and *To the Princes and Peoples of Italy*.

The third date suggested for the writing of the work under discussion is that of the coming of Henry VII to Italy as Emperor. And there is much in favor of this last belief. From the purely polemical nature of the *De Monarchia* it is apparent that it was brought into being by some urgent and present motive. But even as late as the *Convito*, Dante wrote hopelessly of the condition of the Empire and those "who sat in the saddle." He calls Frederick of Swabia "the last Emperor of the Romans, last, I say, as regards this present time, although Rudolph and Adolphus and Albert were elected after his death and from among his descendants."[1]

There was one time in Dante's life when a motive urgent and present existed, one time when he saw with perfect clearness that his

1. *Conv.* 4. 3. 3.

dream of Universal Empire was about to be fulfilled, and in the intensity of his belief he spoke to the rulers of Italy words that glowed with ardor and intense faith: "Behold, now is the acceptable time in which the signs of consolation and peace arise, for a new day grows bright, revealing a dawn that lessens the gloom of long calamity. . . . Henceforth let thy heart be joyful, O Italy! who deserveth to be pitied even by the Saracens, but who straightway shalt be looked on with envy throughout the world, because thy bridegroom, the solace of the earth, and the glory of thy people, the most clement Henry, Divine, Augustus, and Caesar, hastens to the nuptials."[1] And this man whose way Dante, like another John the Baptist, prepared in Italy; whose feet he ran to kiss as a most humble subject; whose actions he forbore not to rebuke or praise in words a father might have used, was Henry of Luxemburg, elected after the death of Albert to the throne of the Holy Roman Empire.[2]

1. *Letter 5. 2. 3.*

2. Albert died May 1, 1308. Henry was elected November 27, 1308; entered Italy, October, 1311; received the iron crown of the Lombards at Milan on Epiphany,

As we have said, the three letters written by Dante concerning this occasion are in their reasoning and phraseology remarkably like the *De Monarchia*. Especially is that *To the Princes and Peoples of Italy* like the second division of our treatise. Space cannot be given here for quoting such parallel passages, but they are indicated in due place in the notes to the translation.

We may add to this evidence drawn from immediate purpose and similarity of language Boccaccio's assertion to the effect that Henry's election inspired Dante to attempt to bring from its hiding-place the knowledge of temporal Monarchy, in order "to keep watch for the good of the world." In summing up the testimony for the probable date of the *De Monarchia*, we would say that the reasons for ascribing it to a time previous to 1302 are about as slight as those that place it at the end of the poet's life. Because it is so distinctly a work of occasion, because Boccaccio has pointed out that occasion, and no internal evidence can be found to disprove his statement, and, finally, because it is so akin to the letters of the occasion named, we

1311; Dante's letter to him April 16, 1311; died at Buonconvento, August 24, 1313.

ascribe it to those years when Henry's accession to the Imperial throne promised to bring mankind to the calm and tranquillity of universal peace.

And may we strengthen this conclusion by the witnessing of Dante's epitaph, which, though of minor import, should not be omitted? This epitaph was long thought to be of Dante's composition, but now is believed to have been the work of Bernardo Canaccio about 1353, and is interesting at this juncture merely for the fact that as first in the list of the poet's achievements is named "the rights of Monarchy."

JVRA MONARCHIÆ SVPEROS PHLEGETHONTA LACVSQVE
LVSTRANDO CECINI VOLVERVNT FATA QVOVSQVE
SED QVIA PARS CESSIT MELIORIBVS HOSPITA CASTRIS
AVCTOREMQVE SVVM PETIIT FELICIOR ASTRIS
HIC CLAVDOR DANTES PATRIIS EXTORRIS AB ORIS
QVEM GENVIT PARVI FLORENTIA MATER AMORIS [1]

Does it seem probable that if the *De Monarchia* were one of the first of Dante's productions,

1. Lowell has translated this: —

The rights of Monarchy, the Heavens, the Stream of Fire, the Pit,
In vision seen, I sang as far as to the fates seemed fit;
But since my soul, an alien here, hath flown to nobler wars,
And, happier now, hath gone to seek its Maker 'mid the stars,
Here am I, Dante, shut, exiled from the ancestral shore,
Whom Florence, the of all least-loving mother, bore.

ranking with the *Vita Nuova* in its youthfulness, it would have been coupled over his grave with his supreme achievement?

When we realize that the bud of Dante's hope was blighted, that his brave efforts depicted in the *De Monarchia* and the letters of the same period were utterly vain, we feel that a sorrow not to be borne had come to him who had known for so many years "how tastes of salt another's bread, and how it is a hard path to go down and up over another's stairs;" we feel that a final failure had crowned him whose life was outwardly all defeat, and inwardly all victory. Except in earnestness of purpose and courageousness of spirit, Henry in no particular fulfilled the prophecies of Dante. "Tumults and revolts broke out in Lombardy; at Rome the King of Naples held St. Peter's, and the coronation must take place in St. John Lateran, on the southern bank of the Tiber. The hostility of the Guelfic league, headed by the Florentines, Guelfs even against the Pope, obliged Henry to depart from his impartial and republican policy, and to purchase the aid of the Ghibelline chiefs by granting them the government of cities. With few troops and encompassed by enemies, the heroic

Emperor sustained an unequal struggle for a year longer, till, in A. D. 1313, he sank beneath the fevers of the deadly Tuscan summer. His German followers believed, nor has history wholly rejected the tale, that poison was given him by a Dominican monk in sacramental wine. With Henry the Seventh ends the history of the Empire in Italy, and Dante's book is an epitaph instead of a prophecy." [1]

Yet when it was all over, with what splendid courage and unfaltering devotion Dante eulogizes the man in whom had died all promised political unity, and the hope of peace for blood-soaked Italy. The praise of the Emperor who had failed is spoken by Beatrice in the Empyrean heaven, where she and Dante, rising into the yellow of the everlasting rose, behold the host of those who sit in glory: "Look how great is the assembly of the white garments. Behold our city, how great is its circuit; behold there our stalls so full, that few folk hereafter are awaited. In that great seat on which thou hast thine eyes, by reason of the crown which already is placed over it, ere thou shalt sup at this wedding-feast, will sit the soul, which on

1. Bryce, chap. 15.

earth shall be Imperial, of the high Henry who will come to set Italy straight before that she shall be ready." Dante believed with a more modern poet that, after all, "'t is not what man does which exalts him, but what man would do."

We conclude this inadequate consideration of the *De Monarchia*, its significance, content, history, and probable date of composition, by saying that if on perusal the subject of the *De Monarchia* seem antiquated and of small import, if many arguments adduced are based on unhistoric assumptions, if the style is marred by logical devices and bare syllogisms, nevertheless it will be found to contain ideals of life more perfect than man yet boasts of attaining except in dreams. Never has ideal civil polity been imaged forth in more simplicity and beauty, and never perhaps has one been more utterly impracticable. Yet in some of its principles, in the necessary disinterestedness of the supreme ruler in political matters, in the mutual independence of Church and State, in its strong advocacy of peace, it has rightly been compared to the United States under its President, and to the Netherlands under a supreme Stadtholder.

To quote Mr. Dinsmore:[1] "His essential aspiration is that of many minds to-day, and we are beginning to see its realization. The code of international law is a source of universal order; the recent Peace Congress at the Hague, in establishing an international tribunal, took a long step toward extending the area of peace for which the soul of Dante longed; in America the Church is separated from the State, a precedent which is exerting a wide influence in Europe."

Besides, the *De Monarchia* is an indispensable part of the work of a man whose whole life was devoted to one end, and whose work was a unified expression of his great, unified life. It is a manifestation of that gift in Dante which Mr. Bryce so praised in Hildebrand; that gift whose manifestations the world cannot afford to lose, wherever they come into being; "that rarest and grandest of gifts, an intellectual courage and power of imagination in belief, which, when it has convinced itself of aught, accepts it fully with all its consequences."

Without the *De Monarchia* the threefold message of Dante would be incomplete; without

1. *The Teachings of Dante*, p. 56.

the *De Monarchia* it would be far less true that for us as well as for Italy Dante is the thirteenth century.

SOME OPINIONS OF THE *DE MONARCHIA*

Allen, *Fragments of Latin Christianity*: "The fond dream of universal sovereignty, its allied ideal Empire and Church, had its completed expression and defense in Dante's treatise on the Divine Right of Monarchy."

Bryce, *Holy Roman Empire*, chap. 15: "The career of Henry the Seventh in Italy is the most remarkable illustration of the Emperor's position: and imperialist doctrines are set forth most strikingly in the treatise which the greatest spirit of the age wrote to herald or commemorate the advent of that hero, the *De Monarchia* of Dante."

Church, *Dante*, p. 94: "The idea of the *De Monarchia* . . . holds a place in the great scheme of the *Commedia*; it is prominent there also — an idea seen but in fantastic shape, encumbered and confused with most grotesque imagery, but the real idea of polity and law, which the experience of modern Europe has attained to."

Hallam, *Middle Ages*, chap. 8, part 2: "Some who were actively engaged in these transactions took more extensive views, and assailed the whole edifice of temporal power which the Roman see had been constructing for more than two centuries. Several men of learning, among whom Dante, Ockham, and Marsilius of Padua are the most conspicuous, investigated the foundations of this superstructure, and exposed their insufficiency."

Milman, *Latin Christianity*, bk. 12, chap. 4: "The ideal sovereign of Dante's famous treatise on Monarchy was Henry of Luxemburg. Neither Dante nor his time can be understood but through this treatise."

Lowell, *Dante*, Riverside Edition, Vol. 4. p. 151: "It is to be looked on as a purely scholastic demonstration of a speculative thesis, in which the manifold exceptions and modifications essential in practical application are necessarily left aside."

BOOK I

WHETHER TEMPORAL MONARCHY IS NECESSARY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE WORLD

DUCK!

THE MONARCHY OF DANTE ALIGHIERI

CHAPTER I

Introduction.

1. ALL men on whom the Higher Nature[1] has stamped the love of truth should especially concern themselves in laboring for posterity, in order that future generations may be enriched by their efforts, as they themselves were made rich by the efforts of generations past. For that man who is imbued with public teachings, but cares not to contribute something to the public good, is far in arrears of his duty, let him be assured; he is, indeed, not "a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in

1. God is "miglior natura" in *Purg.* 16. 79: "To a greater power and a better nature, ye are free subjects."

Par. 10. 28: "The greatest minister of nature, that stamps the world with the goodness of heaven."

Par. 13. 79: "But if the burning love disposes and stamps the clear view of the prime virtue, all perfection is there acquired."

Cf. *S. T.* 1. 66. 3; *De Trinit.* 3. 4.

his season,"[2] but rather a destructive whirlpool, always engulfing, and never giving back what it has devoured. Often meditating with myself upon these things, lest I should some day be found guilty of the charge of the buried talent,[3] I desire for the public weal, not only to burgeon, but to bear fruit,[4] and to establish truths unattempted by others. For he who should demonstrate again a theorem of Euclid, who should attempt after Aristotle to set forth anew the nature of happiness, who should undertake after Cicero to defend old age a second time — what fruit would such a one yield? None, forsooth; his tedious superfluousness would merely occasion disgust.

2. Now, inasmuch as among other abstruse and important truths, knowledge of temporal Monarchy is most important and most obscure, and inasmuch as the subject has been shunned by all because it has no direct relation to gain, therefore my purpose is to bring it out from its hiding-place, that I may both keep watch for the good of the world, and be the first to win the palm of so great a prize for my own glory.[5] Verily, I undertake a difficult task and one beyond my powers, but my trust is not so much in

2. *Ps.* 1. 3. 3. *Matt.* 25. 25.
4. *Num.* 17. 8. 5. *1 Cor.* 9. 24; cf. *Phil.* 3. 14.

my own worth as in the light of the Giver "that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not."[6]

CHAPTER II

To what end does government exist among all men?

1. First, we must ascertain what temporal Monarchy is in its idea, as I may say, and in its purpose. Temporal Monarchy, called also the Empire, we define as a single Principality extending over all peoples in time, or in those things and over those things which are measured by time.[1] Concerning it three main questions arise. First, we may ask and seek to prove whether it is necessary for the well-being of the world; secondly, whether the Roman people rightfully appropriated the office of Monarchy; and thirdly, whether the authority of

6. *James* 1. 5. In *Conv.* 1. 8. 2 God is called the "Universal Benefactor."

Conv. 3. 7. 2: "The Primal Goodness sendeth His bounties unto all things in an affluence."

1. *Conv.* 4. 4. 1: "Wherefore, in order to put an end to these wars and their causes, the whole earth should be under a monarchy, that is, should be a single principality under one prince, who, possessing everything, and therefore incapable of further desire, would keep the kings content within the limits of their kingdoms, so that peace should abide among them."

Monarchy derives from God directly, or from another, a minister or vicar of God.

2. But as every truth which is not a first principle is manifested by the truth of some first principle, it is necessary in every investigation to know the first principle to which we may return, in analysis, for the proof of all propositions which are subsequently assumed. And as the present treatise is an investigation, we must before all else search out a basic principle, on the validity of which will depend whatever follows.[2] Be it known, therefore, that certain things exist which are not at all subject to our control, and which we can merely speculate upon, but cannot cause to be or to do: such are mathematics, physics, and divinity. On the other hand, certain things exist which are subject to our control, and which are matter not only for specu-

2. Each book of the *De Mon.* is likewise founded on the rock of a basic principle. See 2. 2; 3. 2.

Conv. 4. 15. 7: "The third infirmity in the minds of men is caused by levity of nature; for many have so light a fancy, that they fly from one thing to another in their reasoning, and before they have finished their syllogism have formed a conclusion, and from that conclusion have flown to another, and think they are arguing most subtly, while they have no principle to start from, and see nothing in their imagination that is really there."

Par. 2. 124: "Regard me well, how I am going through this topic to the truth thou desirest."

lation, but for execution.[3] In these things the action is not performed for the sake of the speculation, but the latter for the sake of the former, because in them action is the end. Since the matter under consideration is governmental,[4] nay, is the very source and first principle of right governments, and since everything governmental is subject to our control, it is clear that our present theme is primarily adapted for action rather than for speculation. Again, since the first principle and cause of all actions is their ultimate end,[5] and since the ultimate end first puts the agent in motion, it follows that the entire pro-

3. *Conv.* 4. 9. 2: "There are things which it [the reason] only considers and does not originate, . . . such as natural and supernatural things, i. e. laws and mathematics; and actions which it considers and performs by its own proper act, which are called rational, such as the arts of speech; and actions which it considers and executes in material outside of itself, as in the mechanical arts."

4. "The word *politia* may be used either for a general form of government, such as monarchy or democracy; or for a concrete organ of government, such as some specific monarchy; or for some function of government as exercised by such an organ, i. e. the actual governing done by the monarch; or for the ideal goal and purpose of government, i. e. the right ordering of a state." Wicksteed. It has seemed best to translate this oft-recurring word in its various forms by "government," "governmental," etc.

5. The identification of cause and end, or effect, is com-

cedure of the means toward an end must derive from the end itself. For the manner of cutting wood to build a house will be other than that of cutting wood to build a ship. So if there exists an end for universal government among men, that end will be the basic principle through which all things to be proved hereafter may be demonstrated satisfactorily. But to believe that there is an end for this government and for that government, and that there is no single end common to all, would indeed be irrational.

CHAPTER III

To actualize the whole capacity of the possible intellect in speculation and action.

1. We must now determine what is the end of human society as a whole, and having determined that, we shall have accomplished more than half of our labor, according to the Philosopher in his writings *to Nicomachus.*[1] In order

plete in *Letter II.* 33: "When the Source or First, which is God, hath been found, there is nothing to be sought beyond (since He is the Alpha and Omega, which is the Beginning and the End)." See note 1, *De Mon.* 1. 13. For this notion of cause and effect see also Arist. *Metaphys.* 1, and *De Causis.*

1. *Eth.* 1. 7. 21: "For the principle seems to be more

to discern the point in question more clearly, observe that as Nature fashions the thumb for one purpose, the whole hand for another, then the arm for a purpose differing from both, and the entire man for one differing from all, so she creates for one end the individual, for another the family, for another the village, for still another end the city, for another the kingdom, and finally for an ultimate end, by means of His art which is Nature, the Eternal God brings into being the human race in its totality. And this last is what we are in search of as the directive first principle of our investigation.

2. In beginning, then, let it be recognized that God and Nature make[2] nothing in vain;

than half the whole." Dante almost without exception refers to Aristotle as "the Philosopher." In *Conv.* 3. 5. 5 he is "That glorious Philosopher to whom Nature has most completely revealed her secrets;" "The master of human reason," *Conv.* 4. 2. 7; "That master of philosophers," *Conv.* 4. 8. 5; "The master of those who know," *Inf.* 4. 131. For Dante's relation to Aristotle see Moore, *Studies in Dante*, Vol. 1. pp. 92–156. For the translations of Aristotle which he used, *l. c.* pp. 305–318. Throughout the *De Mon.* the *Ethics* are called "the writings to Nicomachus," a title given them because they had been addressed by the philosopher to his son of that name.

2. *De Caelo* 1. 4. Dante uses a singular verb with two coördinate subjects, thus, "Deus et natura facit." So *infra*, 1. 11. 1.

but that whatever comes into being comes with a definite function. For, according to the intention of the creator, as creator, the ultimate end of a created being is not the being itself but its proper function.[3] Wherefore a proper function exists not for the sake of the being, but contrariwise. There is, then, some distinct function for which humanity as a whole is ordained, a function which neither an individual nor a household, neither a village, nor a city, nor a particular kingdom, has power to perform.[4] What this

3. *Conv.* 3. 15. 4: "Nature would have made it in vain, because it would have been created without any end."

Par. 8. 97: "The Good which sets in revolution and contents all the realm thou art scaling makes its foresight to be virtue in these great bodies. And not only the natures are foreseen in this mind which is of itself perfect, but they together with their preservation. Wherefore whatsoever this bow discharges falls disposed to a foreseen end, just as a thing aimed right upon its mark. If this were not so, the heaven where thou journeyest would so produce its effects that they would not be an artist's works, but ruins. And this cannot be, if the intellects which move these stars are not maimed and maimed the First, in that He has not perfected them. . . . I see it is impossible for nature, in that which is necessary, to fail."

Cf. *De Mon.* 2. 7. 1; 3. 15. 1; 1. 10. 1.

4. *Pol.* 1. 2. 5–8.

Conv. 4. 4. 1: "The radical foundation of imperial majesty according to the truth is the necessity of human society, which is ordained to one end, that is a happy life; to which

function is will be evident if we point out the distinctive capacity of humanity as a whole. I say, therefore, that no faculty shared by many things diverse in species is the differentiating characteristic of any one of them. For since the differentiating characteristic determines species, it would follow that one essence would be specific to many species, which is impossible. So the differentiating characteristic in man is not simple existence, for that is shared by the elements;[5] nor existence in combination, for that is met with in minerals;[6] nor existence animate, for that is found in plants;[7] nor existence intelligent, for that is participated in by the brutes;[8] but the characteristic competent to

no one is capable of attaining without the aid of others, because man has many needs, which one person alone is unable to satisfy."

5. *Conv.* 3. 3. 1: "Simple bodies, the elements, have a natural love for their own place; wherefore earth always falls toward the centre, and fire is drawn toward the circumference above."

6. *Conv.* 3. 3. 2: "The primary composed bodies, such as minerals." Cf. *Par.* 7. 124: "I see the air, and I see the fire, the earth, and the water and all their combinations come to destruction and endure but a little."

7. *Conv.* 3. 3. 3: "Plants, which are the first of animate things."

8. *Conv.* 3. 2. 3: "The sensitive soul is found without the rational, as in beasts and birds and fishes."

man alone, and to none other above or below him, is existence intelligent through the possible intellect.[9] Although other beings possess intellect, it is not intellect distinguished by potentiality, as is man's. Such beings are intelligent species in a limited sense, and their existence is no other than the uninterrupted act of understanding;[10] they would otherwise not be

9. For the origin of the idea see *De Anima* 3; *Metaphys.* 12; *Ethics* 1. 7. 12: "The work of man is an energy of soul according to reason. Man's chief good is an energy of soul according to virtue." For the mediaeval explanation, *S. T.* 1. 154. 4, and 1. 79. 1, 2, 10.

"Intellectus possibilis" or "passibilis," and "intellectus agens," that is, the passive, apprehending intellect, and the active intelligence, are the two intellects of man. Cf. *De Mon.* 1. 16. The emphasis here is on the fact that at no given time is the potentiality of man's intellect realized.

10. Dante discusses the hierarchies, *Conv.* 2. 5, 6, and *Par.* 28, 29. Cf. *S. T.* 1. 54–59. *Conv.* 2. 5. 1: "These are substances separate from matter, that is intelligences, whom the common people call angels;" *l. c.* 2. 5. 3: "Their intellect is one and perpetual;" 4. 19. 2: "Human nobility, as far as the variety of its fruits is considered, excels that of the angels, although the angelic may be more divine in its unity." That is, while the angelic nature is an uninterrupted realization of the knowledge of which each order of these beings is capable, man always approximates through a variety of ways to the knowledge that is his heritage.

Par. 29. 70: "But whereas on earth through your schools it is taught that the angelic nature is such as understands and

eternal. It is evident, therefore, that the differentiating characteristic of humanity is a distinctive capacity or power of intellect.

3. And since this capacity as a whole cannot be reduced to action at one time through one man, or through any one of the societies discriminated above, multiplicity is necessary in the human race in order to actualize its capacity in entirety. Likewise multiplicity is necessary in creatable things in order to exercise continually the capacity of primal matter. Were it not so, we should be granting the existence of unactualized potentiality, which is impossible. With this belief Averroës [11] accords in his commentary on the treatise *concerning the Soul.*[12] Further, the intellectual capacity of which I speak has reference not only to universal forms or species, but, by a sort of extension, to particular ones. Wherefore it is a common saying that the speculative intellect becomes by exten-

remembers and wills, . . . the truth is there below confused." Dante's *actus* or *formus* is typified in angelic natures, his *materia* or *potentia* in matter, while both form and matter are found in created things.

11. Averroës was an Arabian philosopher of the twelfth century, and author of the famous commentary upon Aristotle here alluded to. He is mentioned in *Conv.* 4. 13. 3, and placed among the great thinkers in Limbo, *Inf.* 4. 144.

12. "Ad libr. tertium Ed. Venet. 1552, p. 164." Witte.

sion the practical, whose end is to do and to make. I speak of things to be done, which are controlled by political sagacity, and things to be made, which are controlled by art,[13] because they are all handmaids of speculation, that supreme end for which the Primal Good brought into being the human race.[14] From this now

13. *Metaphys.* 1. 1: "An art comes into being when, out of many conceptions of experience, one universal opinion is evolved with respect to similar cases."

14. *Conv.* 3. 15. 2: "In this gaze or contemplation alone is human perfection to be gained, that is, the perfection of the reason, on which, as on its most important part, all our being depends; and all our other actions, feelings, nourishment — all exist for it alone, and it exists for itself and not for others." *L. c.* 4. 4. 1: "Peace should abide among them, . . . which done, man lives happily, for which end he was born." *L. c.* 4. 17. 16: "We must know that we can have two kinds of happiness in this life, according to two different ways, one good, one best, which lead us thereto; one is the active life, and the other the contemplative." *L. c.* 4. 22. 5–10: "The use of the mind is double, that is, practical and speculative, and both are delightful; although that of contemplation is most so. . . . Its practical use is to act through us virtuously, that is, righteously by temperance, fortitude, and justice; the speculative is not to operate actively in us, but to consider the works of God and of nature; and the one and the other make up our beatitude and supreme happiness."

Purg. 27. 93, Dante dreams of Leah and Rachael, who typify the contemplative and active life; "to see satisfies her, but me to work."

Purg. 28 realizes the dream of the active life in the person

grows clear the saying in the *Politics* that "the vigorous in intellect naturally govern other men."[15]

CHAPTER IV

To attain this end humanity requires universal peace.

1. It has now been satisfactorily explained that the proper function of the human race, taken in the aggregate, is to actualize continually the entire capacity of the possible intellect, primarily in speculation, then, through its extension and for its sake, secondarily in action. And since it is true that whatever modifies a part modifies the whole, and that the individual man seated[1] in quiet grows perfect in knowledge and

of Matilda, and *Purg.* 30 that of the contemplative in the person of Beatrice. It is for abandoning the contemplative life, and "following false images of good," that Beatrice reproves Dante, *Purg.* 30. 131.

15. *Pol.* 1. 2. 2: "By nature too some beings command, and others obey, for the sake of mutual safety; for a being endowed with discernment and forethought is by nature the superior and governor."

1. "Sedendo et quiescendo." Dante often used the figure of the seated person to portray the life of contemplation.

S. T. 2–2. 182. 2: "Contemplative life consists in a certain stillness and rest according to the text, 'Be still, and know that I am God,'" *Ps.* 46. 10. Also *S. T.* 1–2. 3. 4, 5.

Conv. 4. 17. 16: "And Mary . . . sitting at the feet

wisdom,[2] it is plain that amid the calm and tranquillity of peace the human race accomplishes most freely and easily its given work. How nearly divine this function is revealed in the words, "Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels."[3] Whence it is manifest that universal peace is the best of those things which are ordained for our beatitude. And hence to the shepherds sounded from on high the message not of riches, nor pleasures, nor honors, nor length of life, nor health, nor beauty; but the message of peace. For the heavenly host said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased."[4] Likewise, "Peace be unto you"[5] was the salutation of the Saviour of men. It befitted the

of Christ, took no heed to the service of the house. . . . For if we explain this morally, our Lord wished thereby to show us that the contemplative life is the best, although the active life is good." *L. c.* 1. 1. 4: "Blessed are the few that are seated at the table where the bread of the angels is eaten."

Purg. 27. 105: "My sister Rachel never is drawn from her mirror, and sits all day."

2. *Eccles.* 38. 25 (Vulg.): "The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure; and he that hath little business shall become wise."

3. *Ps.* 8. 6; cf. *Heb.* 2. 7. Quoted *Conv.* 4. 19. 3.

4. *Luke* 2. 14.

5. *Luke* 24. 36; *John* 20. 21, 26.

supreme Saviour to utter the supreme salutation. It is evident to all that the disciples desired to preserve this custom; and Paul likewise in his words of greeting.[6]

2. From these things which have been expounded we perceive through what better, nay, through what best means the human race may fulfill its proper office. Consequently we perceive the nearest way through which may be reached that universal peace toward which all our efforts are directed as their ultimate end, and which is to be assumed as the basic principle of subsequent reasoning. This principle was necessary, we have said, as a predetermined formula, into which, as into a most manifest truth, must be resolved all things needing to be proved.[7]

6. *Rom.* 1. 7.

7. Some of Dante's most eloquent exhortations in prose and some of the most perfect music of his verse are touching that peace which he knew should make man happy on earth and blessed in heaven, that peace which he went to seek "from world to world," and which he found at last in complete obedience to the will of God.

Purg. 3. 74: Virgil conjures the spirits "By that peace which I think is awaited by you all."

Purg. 5. 61: Dante here tells of "that peace, which makes me, following the feet of a guide thus fashioned, seek it from world to world."

Purg. 10. 34: "The angel that came on earth with the

CHAPTER V

When several things are ordained for one end, one must rule and the others obey.

1. Resuming what was said in the beginning, I repeat, there are three main questions asked and debated in regard to temporal Monarchy,

decree of the many years wept-for peace . . . opened Heaven from its long interdict."

Purg. 11. 7: "Let the peace of thy kingdom come to us."

Purg. 21. 13: "My brethren, God give you peace," is the greeting of Statius.

Purg. 28. 91: "The highest Good, which does only its own pleasure, made the man good and for good, and gave him this place for an earnest to him of eternal peace."

Purg. 30. 7: "That truthful folk . . . turned them to the car as to their peace."

Par. 2. 112: "Within the heaven of the divine peace revolves a body in whose virtue lies the being of all that is contained in it."

Par. 3. 85: "In His will is our peace."

Par. 27. 8: "A life complete of joy and peace."

Par. 30. 100: "Light is there on high, which makes visible the Creator to that creation which only in seeing Him has its peace."

Par. 31. 110: St. Bernard "in this world by contemplation tasted of that peace."

Par. 33. 1: "Virgin Mother . . . in thy womb was rekindled the Love, through whose warmth in the eternal peace this flower has thus sprung."

which is more commonly termed the Empire, and it is my purpose to make inquiry concerning these in the order cited, according to the principle now enunciated. And so let the first question be whether temporal Monarchy is necessary for the well-being of the world. The necessity of temporal Monarchy can be gainsaid with no force of reason or authority, and can be proved by the most powerful and patent arguments, of which the first is taken on the testimony of the Philosopher in the *Politics*. There this venerable authority asserts that when several things are ordained for one end, one of them must regulate or rule, and the others submit to regulation or rule.[1] This, indeed, not only because of the author's glorious name, but because of inductive reasoning, demands credence.[2]

2. If we consider the individual man, we shall see that this applies to him, for, when all

1. *Pol.* 1. 5. 3: "Whatsoever is composed of many parts, which together make up one whole, . . . shows the marks of some one thing governing and another thing governed."

Conv. 4. 4. 2: "And with these reasons we may compare the words of the Philosopher, when he says in the *Politics* that when many things are ordained for one purpose, one of them should be governor or ruler, and all others should be governed or ruled."

2. For Dante's idea of the deference due to authority, philosophical and imperial, see *Conv.* 4. 8. 9.

his faculties are ordered for his happiness, the intellectual faculty itself is regulator and ruler of all others; in no way else can man attain to happiness. If we consider the household, whose end is to teach its members to live rightly, there is need for one called the *pater-familias*, or for some one holding his place, to direct and govern, according to the Philosopher when he says, "Every household is ruled by its eldest."[3] It is for him, as Homer says, to guide and make laws for those dwelling with him. From this arises the proverbial curse, "May you have an equal in your house."[4] If we consider the village, whose aim is adequate protection of persons and property, there is again needed for governing the rest either one chosen for them by another, or one risen to prëeminence from among themselves by their consent; otherwise, they not only obtain no mutual support, but sometimes the whole community is destroyed by many striving for first place. Again, if we consider the city, whose end is to insure comfort and sufficiency in life, there is need for undivided rule in rightly directed governments, and in those wrongly directed[5] as well; else the end

3. *Pol.* 1. 2. 6.
4. Homer, *Od.* 9. 114, quoted by Arist. *Pol.* 1. 2. 6.
5. "Politia obliqua."

of civil life is missed, and the city ceases to be what it was. Finally, if we consider the individual kingdom, whose end is that of the city with greater promise of tranquillity, there must be one king to direct and govern. If not, not only the inhabitants of the kingdom fail of their end, but the kingdom lapses into ruin, in agreement with that word of infallible truth, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation."[6] If, then, this is true of these instances, and of all things ordained for a single end,[7] it is true of the statement assumed above.

3. We are now agreed that the whole human race is ordered for one end, as already shown. It is meet, therefore, that the leader and lord be one, and that he be called Monarch, or Emperor. Thus it becomes obvious that for the well-being of the world there is needed a Monarchy, or Empire.

6. *Luke* 11. 17.

7. *Conv.* 4. 4. 2: "Even as we see a ship, where her divers duties and their divers purposes are ordained for one end, that is, to bring her by a safe course to the desired haven, where, as each officer performs his own duty with regard to the proper end, so there is one person who considers all these, and adapts them all to the final end, and this one is the pilot whose voice all must obey. And this we see in religious bodies, and in armies, and in all things, which, as we have said, are ordained for some one purpose."

CHAPTER VI

The order which is found in the parts of the human race should be found in the race as a whole.

1. As the part is related to the whole,[1] so is the partial order related to the total order. The relation of the part to the whole is as to its end and supreme good, and so the relation of the partial order to the total order is as to its end and supreme good.[2] We see from this that the excellence of partial order does not exceed the

1. *Conv.* 4. 29. 5: "Every whole is made up of its parts, . . . and what is said of a part, in the same way may be said of a whole."

2. *Par.* 1. 103: "All things whatsoever have an order among themselves; and this is form, which makes the universe in the likeness of God. Here the created beings on high see the traces of eternal goodness, which is the end whereunto the rule aforesaid has been made."

Par. 10. 3: "The first and unspeakable Goodness made all that revolves in mind or in place with such order that he who observes this cannot be without tasting of Him."

Par. 29. 31: "Order and structure were concrete in the substances."

Cf. *De Mon.* 2. 7. 1, and note 3.

S. T. 1. 47. 3: "Ipse ordo in rebus sic a Deo creatis existens unitatem mundi manifestat. Mundus enim iste unus dicitur unitate ordinis, secundum quod quaedam ad alia ordinantur. Quaecumque autem sunt a Deo, ordinem habent ad invicem et ad ipsum Deum."

excellence of total order, but rather the converse. A dual order is therefore discernible in the world, namely, the order of parts among themselves, and the order of parts with reference to a third entity which is not a part. For example, in the army there is an order among its divisions, and an order of the whole with reference to the general. The order of the parts with reference to the third entity is superior, for partial order has its end in total order, and exists for the latter's sake. Wherefore, if the form of the order is discernible in the parts of the human aggregate, it should, by virtue of the previous syllogism, be much more discernible in the aggregate or totality, because total order or form of order is superior. Now, as is sufficiently manifest from what was said in the preceding chapter, it is discernible in all the units of the human race, and therefore must be or ought to be discernible in the totality itself. And so all parts which we have designated as included in kingdoms, and kingdoms themselves, should be ordered with reference to one Prince or Principality, that is, to one Monarch or Monarchy.[3]

3. *Conv.* 4. 4. 1: "The whole earth should be under one prince, who . . . would keep the kings content within the limits of their kingdoms, so that peace should abide among them,

CHAPTER VII

The relation of kingdoms and nations to the monarch should be that of humanity to God.

1. Further, mankind is a whole with relation to certain parts, and is a part with relation to a certain whole. It is a whole, of course, with relation to particular kingdoms and nations, as was shown above, and it is a part with relation to the whole universe, as is self-evident. Therefore, in the manner in which the constituent parts of collective humanity correspond to humanity as a whole, so, we say, collective humanity corresponds as a part to its larger whole. That the constituent parts of collective humanity correspond to humanity as a whole through the one only principle of submission to a single Prince,

wherein the cities should repose, and in this repose the neighbors should love one another, and in this love the families should supply all their wants; which done, man lives happily; for which end he was born."

Conv. 4. 4. 2: "And this office, for reason of its excellence, is called Empire, without any qualification, because it is the government of all governments. And so he who holds the office is called emperor, because he is a law to all and must be obeyed by all, and all others take their force and authority from him. And thus it is evident that the imperial majesty and authority is the highest in human society."

can be easily gathered from what has gone before. And therefore humanity corresponds to the universe itself, or to its Prince, who is God and Monarch,[1] simply through one only principle, namely, the submission to a single Prince. We conclude from this that Monarchy is necessary to the world for its well-being.

CHAPTER VIII

Men are made in the image of God; but God is one.

1. And everything is well, nay, best disposed which acts in accordance with the intention of the first agent, who is God. This is self-evident, save to such as deny that divine goodness attains the summit of perfection. It is of the intention of God that all things should represent the divine likeness in so far as their peculiar nature is able to receive it.[1] For this reason it

1. Dante applies to the Deity the names denoting governmental supremacy, not only in the *De Mon.* but elsewhere. See *Conv.* 2. 6. 1; 2. 16. 6; "Imperadore dell' universo;" also Emperor, *Inf.* 1. 124; *Par.* 12. 40, etc.; *De Mon.* 3. 16. 1.

1. *Conv.* 3. 14. 1: "The sun . . . sending his rays here below, makes all things to resemble his own brightness, as far as they, of their own nature, are capable of receiving light. Thus

was said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."[2] Although "in our image" cannot be said of things inferior to man, nevertheless, "after our likeness" can be said of all things, for the entire universe is nought else than a footprint of divine goodness. The human race, therefore, is ordered well, nay, is ordered for the best, when according to the utmost of its power it becomes like unto God.[3] But the human race is most like unto God when it is most one, for the principle of unity dwells in Him alone. Wherefore it is written, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord."[4]

2. But the human race is most one when all are united together, a state which is manifestly impossible unless humanity as a whole becomes subject to one Prince, and consequently comes

. . . God brings this love to His own likeness, in so far as it is possible for it to resemble Him."

Par. 1. 104: "Form . . . makes the universe in the likeness of God." Cf. *De Mon.* 2. 2. 2, and note 3.

2. *Gen.* 1. 26. Used in *Conv.* 4. 12. 6: "God is the source of our soul and has made it like unto Himself (as it is written, 'Let us make man in our image and likeness').."

3. *Eth.* 10. 8. 13: "The energy of the deity, as it surpasses all others in blessedness, must be contemplative: and therefore, of human energies, that which is nearest allied to this must be the happiest."

4. *Deut.* 6. 4.

most into accordance with that divine intention which we showed at the beginning of this chapter is the good, nay, is the best disposition of mankind.

CHAPTER IX

Men, as the sons of Heaven, should follow in the footprints of Heaven.

1. Likewise, every son acts well and for the best when, as far as his individual nature permits, he follows in the footprints of a perfect father.[1] As "Man and the sun generate man,"[2] according to the second book of *Natural Learning*, the human race is the son of heaven, which is absolutely perfect in all its works. Therefore mankind acts for the best when it follows in the footprints of heaven, as far as its distinctive nature permits. Now, human reason apprehends most clearly through philosophy[3] that

1. *Conv.* 4. 24. 8: "All children look more closely to the paternal footprints than any others."

2. *Phys.* 2. 2: "Homo hominem generat ex materia et sol," Witte quotes from an old Latin version. Dante quotes three times in *De Mon.* from *De Naturali Auditu*, as he calls the *Physics* of Aristotle. Cf. *infra*, 2. 7. 3; 3. 15. 2.

3. *Inf.* 11. 97: "Philosophy . . . to whoso looks narrowly on her, notes, not in one place only, how nature takes

the entire heaven in all its parts, its movements, and its motors, is controlled by a single motion, the *primum mobile*,[4] and by a single mover, God;

her course from the understanding of God, and from His workmanship; and if thou well observe thy *Physics*, thou wilt find after not many pages, that your workmanship, as far as it can, follows her as the learner does the master, so that your workmanship is as it were second in descent from God."

4. The "primum mobile" is the ninth heaven, and the source of motion in the other eight movable heavens. The heavens are treated of in *Conv.* 2. 3–6; the "primum mobile" in 2. 4. 1: "The fervent longing of all its parts to be united to those of this tenth and most divine heaven, makes it revolve with so much desire that its velocity is almost incomprehensible." Dante's theory of motion is to some extent explained in *Letter II.* 26: "Everything that moveth hath some defect, and hath not its whole being complete in itself."

Conv. 2. 15. 5: "The said heaven directs by its movements the daily revolution of all the others, by which they all daily receive and transmit here below the virtue of all their parts."

Par. 27. 106: "The nature of the world that holds the centre quiet, and moves all else around, begins hence as from its starting-point. And this heaven has no other Where than in the mind of God, in which is kindled the love that turns it and the virtue that it showers down. Light and love comprehend it with one circle, as it does the rest; and of that girth He only who girt it is the intelligence. Its movement is not marked out by any other, the others are measured by it." Cf. *Par.* 1. 76, where God is called "Love who orderest the heavens," and *De Mon.* 2. 2. 3 note.

then, if our syllogism is correct, the human race is best ordered when in all its movements and motors it is controlled by one Prince as by one mover, by one law as by one motion. On this account it is manifestly essential for the well-being of the world that there should exist a Monarchy or unified Principality, which men call the Empire. This truth Boethius sighed for in the words, "O race of men how blessed, did the love which rules the heavens rule likewise your minds!"[5]

CHAPTER X

In order to settle all disputes a supreme judge is necessary.

1. Wherever strife is a possibility, in that place must be judgment; otherwise imperfection would exist without its perfecting agent.[1] This could not be, for God and Nature are not wanting in necessary things.[2] It is self-evident that

Par. 28. 70: "The one which sweeps along with it the universe sublime."

5. *De Cons. Philos.* 2. Metr. 8. ll. 28–30. See pp. 282–288 of Moore's *Studies*, Vol. 1, for an account of Dante's relation to Boethius, one of his "favorite authors."

1. "Sine proprio perfectivo."

2. *De Anima* 3. 9. This idea Dante often repeats. See *infra*, 2. 7. 2, and 3. 15. 1.

between any two princes, neither of whom owes allegiance to the other, controversy may arise either by their own fault or by the fault of their subjects. For such, judgment is necessary. And inasmuch as one owing no allegiance to the other can recognize no authority in him (for an equal cannot control an equal), there must be a third prince with more ample jurisdiction, who may govern both within the circle of his right. This prince will be or will not be a Monarch. If he is, our purpose is fulfilled; if not, he will again have a coequal beyond the circle of his jurisdiction, and again a third prince will be required. And thus either the process will be carried to infinity, which is impossible, or that primal and highest judge will be reached, by whose judgments all disputes are settled mediately or immediately. And this judge will be Monarch, or Emperor. Monarchy is therefore indispensable to the world, and this truth the Philosopher saw when he said, "Things have no desire to be wrongly ordered; inasmuch as a multitude of Princedoms is wrong, let there be one Prince."[3]

3. *Metaphys.* 11. 10, at the end. Moore points out the original source as Homer, *Il.* 2. 204.

Par. 20. 76: "Such seemed to me the image of the imprint of the eternal pleasure, according to its desire for which each thing becomes what sort it is."

CHAPTER XI

The world is best ordered when in it Justice is preëminent.

1. Further, the world is disposed for the best when Justice reigns therein; wherefore, desiring to glorify that age which seemed to be dawning in his own day, Virgil sang in his *Bucolics*, "Now doth the Virgin return and the kingdoms of Saturn."[1] For they called Justice the Virgin, and called her also Astraea. The kingdoms of Saturn meant those happiest times which men named the Age of Gold. Justice is preëminent only under a Monarch; therefore, that the world may be disposed for the best, there is needed a Monarchy, or Empire.

2. To make the assumption plain, it must be understood that Justice, considered in itself and in its distinctive nature, is a certain directness or rule of action avoiding the oblique on either side, and refusing the comparison of more or less in degree, as whiteness considered in the abstract.[2]

1. *Ecl.* 4. 6. Statius in his eulogy of Virgil, *Purg.* 22. 70, paraphrases this passage of the Fourth Eclogue: "The world renews itself; Justice returns, and the first age of man; and a new progeny descends from Heaven." Use is made of the same in *Letter* 7. 1.

2. One of the books of the *Convito*, which was never writ-

Certain forms[3] of this kind, though present in compounds, consist in themselves of simple

ten, was to have been devoted to this "moral virtue." *Conv.* 1. 12. 4: "Of this subject I shall treat fully in the fourteenth book." So Dante affirms again, *l. c.* 4. 27. 5: "Justice will be treated of in the last book but one of this volume." The word "justitia," used in the *De Mon.* according to the definition here of "regula sive rectitudo," is employed elsewhere by Dante with varying meanings, ranging even to a synonym of perfect goodness and God Himself.

Conv. 4. 17. 13: "The eleventh [moral virtue] is Justice, which disposes us to love and practice righteousness in all things."

Inf. 29. 56: "Justice that cannot err" punishes those in hell. In *Purg.* 19. 77 the sufferings endured "both hope and justice make less hard." Again in *Purg.* 16. 71, it is "Justice to have for good joy, and for evil woe."

Par. 4. 67: "That our justice should appear unjust in the eyes of mortals is argument of faith and pertains not to heretic depravity."

Par. 6. 103: "Let the Ghibellines . . . work their arts under another ensign, for he ever follows that amiss who separates justice and it." *L. c.* 121: "The living justice makes our affection sweet within us, so that it can never be wrested to any unrighteousness."

Par. 18. 115: "O sweet star, what manner and what number of what gems showed me that our justice is an effect of the heaven wherein thou art set." In this same canto Dante sees the motto of the empire, 90 ff., "Diligite justitiam . . . qui judicatis terram," in the words which open the *Book of Wisdom.* For Thomas Aquinas on Justice, see *S. T.* 2–2. 57. 1, 58. 1.

3. Forms may be substantial or accidental; substantial, when

and invariable essence, as the Master of the Six Principles[4] rightly claims; yet such qualities admit the comparison of more or less in degree as regards the subjects[5] in which they are mingled, when more or less of the qualities' opposites are mixed therein. Therefore, when with Justice is intermixed a minimum of its opposite, both as to disposition and operation, there Justice reigns. Truly, then may be applied to her the words of the Philosopher: "Neither Hesperus, the star of evening, nor Lucifer, the star of morning, is so wonderfully fair."[6] Then, indeed, she is like to Phœbe beholding her brother across the circle

they give things being or essence; accidental, when they give things qualities or attributes. Whiteness is an accidental form which is intrinsically absolute. More or less whiteness is only possible when some other accidental form is mixed with it. Cf. *infra*, par. 3.

4. Gilbertus Porretanus was a scholastic logician, a theologian, and Bishop of Poitiers, a pupil of Bernard of Chartres and of Anselm of Laon. His chief logical work was *De Sex Principiis*, and it gave him the name by which Dante designates him. A criticism of the ten Aristotelian Categories, it drew a distinction between the first four (formae inhaerentes), substance, quality, quantity, and relation, and the other six (formae assistentes), and it became one of the most popular works in the schools.

5. Dante uses "subject" to mean either an entity or an underlying element.

6. *Eth.* 5. 1. 12.

of the heavens, from the purple of morn's serene.[7]

3. Man's disposition to Justice may meet opposition in the will;[8] for when will is not wholly unstained by cupidity, even if Justice be present, she may not appear in the perfect splendor of her purity, having encountered a quality which resists her to some degree, be it never so little. So it is right to repulse those who attempt to impassion a judge. In its operation, man's justice may meet opposition through want of power; for since Justice is a virtue involving other persons, how can one act according to its dictates without the power of allotting to each man what belongs to him?[9] It is obvious from this that in proportion to the just man's power will be the extent of his exercise of Justice.

4. From our exposition we may proceed to argue thus: Justice is most effective in the world when present in the most willing and powerful man; only a Monarch is such a man;

7. The sun and moon are again referred to in this way, *Par.* 29. 1: "When both the children of Latona, brooded over by the Ram and Scales, together make of the horizon a belt."

8. *Par.* 15. 1: Into "a benign will . . . is dissolved always the love which inspires righteously, as evil concupiscence is unto the unjust will."

9. *Eth.* 5. 1. 15, 17, 20.

therefore Justice subsisting in a sole Monarch is the most effective in the world. This prosyllogism runs through the second figure[10] with intrinsic negation, and is like this: All B is A; only C is A; therefore only C is B. That is, All B is A; nothing except C is A; therefore nothing except C is B.

5. The former statement[11] is apparent from the forerunning explanation; the latter, first, in regard to the will, second, in regard to the power, is unfolded thus. In regard to the will, it must first be noted that the worst enemy of Justice is cupidity, as Aristotle signifies in the fifth book *to Nicomachus*.[12] When cupidity is

10. *Analyt. Prior*. 1. 5. The second figure is characterized by having the common term (A in this case) in the predicate, both in the major and minor premise, and by having one premise positive and one negative.

11. That is, Justice is most powerful in the world when present in the most powerful and willing subject.

12. *Eth*. 5. 2. 5.

Covetousness, cupidity, or avarice, the desire for other than that which is the intention of God, Dante makes the root of every wrong. Individual self-seeking destroys the form, or order, of the universe. It is related to the evil of multiplicity treated of in *De Mon*. 1. 15. Those guilty of avarice were punished in the fourth circle of Inferno, canto 7; Simoniacs in the eighth circle, Malebolge, canto 19; and usurers just above in the seventh circle, *Inf*. 17.

Inf. 12. 49: "O blind covetousness! O foolish wrath!

removed altogether, nothing remains inimical to Justice ; hence, fearful of the influence of cupidity which easily distorts men's minds, the Philosopher grew to believe that whatever can be determined by law should in no wise be relegated to a judge.[13] Cupidity is impossible when there is nothing to be desired, for passions cease to exist with the destruction of their objects. Since his jurisdiction is bounded only by the ocean,[14]

that dost so spur us in our short life, and afterward in the life eternal dost in such evil wise steep us!" *Purg.* 19. 121; 22. 23, 34.

Purg. 20. 82: "O avarice, what canst thou do more with us, since thou hast so drawn my race to thee that it cares not for its own flesh !"

Par. 27. 121–124: "O covetousness, which dost so whelm mortals under thee that none has power to draw his eyes forth of thy waves! Well flowers in men their wills; but the rain unbroken turns to sloes the true plums."

Par. 30. 138: Henry came before his time to Italy because "The blind covetousness which bewitches you has made you like the child who is dying of hunger and drives away his nurse."

For further reference to cupidity, see note, *Aquinas Ethicus*, Vol. 2. p. 396. Rickaby.

13. *Rhetoric* 1. 1. 7. *Conv.* 4. 4. 1: "The whole earth . . . should be under one prince, . . . possessing everything, and therefore incapable of further desire."

14. *Aen.* 1. 287: "Imperium Oceano, famam qui terminet astris."

In the letter to Henry VII, *Letter 5.* 3, the idea is am-

there is nothing for a Monarch to desire. This is not true of the other princes, whose realms terminate in those of others, as does the King of Castile's in that of the King of Aragon. So we conclude that among mortals the purest subject for the indwelling of Justice is the Monarch.

6. Moreover, to the extent however small that cupidity clouds the mental attitude toward Justice, charity or right love clarifies and brightens it. In whomever, therefore, right love can be present to the highest degree, in him can Justice find the most effective place. Such is the Monarch, in whose person Justice is or may be most effective. That right love acts as we have said, may be shown in this way: avarice, scorning man's competency,[15] seeks things beyond

plified: "The power of the Romans is limited neither by the confines of Italy, nor by the shores of three-horned Europe. For although through violence its dominions may have been narrowed on all sides, none the less, since it extends to the waves of Amphitrite by inviolable right, it barely deigns to be girded round about by the ineffectual billows of the ocean. For to us it was written: 'Of illustrious origin shall Trojan Caesar be born: his empire shall end with the ocean, his fame with the stars.'"

15. "Perseitate hominum." Witte instances the same word, Ockham, *Quatuor Libros Senten.* 1. 2. 4: "Omnis propositio, in qua praedicatur passio de suo subiecto cum nomine perseitatis, esset falsa, quodest absurdum." Ducange defines it thus: "Perseitas hominum = facultas per se subsistandi."

him; but charity, scorning all else, seeks God and man, and therefore the good of man. And since to live in peace is chief of man's blessings, as we said before, and since this is most fully and easily accomplished by Justice, charity will make Justice thrive greatly; with her strength will the other grow strong.[16]

7. That right love should indwell in the Monarch more than in all men beside reveals itself thus: Everything loved is the more loved the nearer it is to him who loves; men are nearer to the Monarch than to other princes; therefore they are or ought to be most loved by him.[17] The first statement is obvious if we call to mind the nature of patients and agents; the

16. *Purg.* 15. 71: "In proportion as charity extends, increases upon it the eternal goodness."

Par. 3. 43: "Our charity locks not its doors upon a just wish." *L. c.* 70: "A virtue of charity sets at rest our will, which makes us wish that only which we have."

17. *Conv.* 1. 12. 2: "Proximity and goodness are the causes that engender love."

Conv. 3. 10. 1: "The closer the thing desired comes to him who desires it, the greater the desire is."

Purg. 27. 109: "And already, through the brightness before the light, which arises the more grateful to pilgrims, as on their return they lodge less far away."

More, *Utopia:* "The king . . . should love his people, and be loved of them; . . . he should live among them, govern them gently."

second if we perceive that men approach other princes in their partial aspect, but a Monarch in their totality. And again, men approach other princes through the Monarch, and not conversely; and thus the guardianship of the world is primary and immediate with the Monarch, but with other princes it is mediate, deriving from the supreme care of the Monarch.

8. Moreover, the more universal a cause, the more does it possess the nature of a cause, for the lower cause is one merely by virtue of the higher, as is patent from the treatise *on Causes*.[18] The more a cause is a cause, the more it loves its effect, for such love pursues its cause for its own sake. As we have said, other princes are causes merely by virtue of the Monarch; then among mortals he is the most universal cause of man's well-being, and the good of man is loved by him above all others.[19]

18. *De Causis*, Lect. 1. This pseudo-Aristotelian treatise, probably of Arabic origin, was regarded with great reverence in the Middle Ages, and commentaries were written upon it by Albertus Magnus, Thomas Aquinas, and Aegidius Romanus. Prantl, *Geschichte der Logik im Abendlande*, Vol. 3. pp. 8–10.

19. *Conv.* 4. 4. 3: "Before the coming of the aforesaid officer [the emperor] no one had at heart the good of all." Cf. *l. c.* 4. 5. 3.

Utopia: "A prince ought to take more care of his people's

9. Who doubts now that a Monarch is most powerfully equipped for the exercise of Justice?[20] None save he who understands not the significance of the word, for a Monarch can have no enemies.

10. The assumed proposition[21] being therefore sufficiently explained, the conclusion is certain that Monarchy is indispensable for the best ordering of the world.

CHAPTER XII

Humanity is ordered for the best when most free.

1. If the principle of freedom is explained, it will be apparent that the human race is ordered for the best when it is most free. Observe, then, those words which are on the lips of many but in the minds of few, that the basic principle of our freedom is freedom of the will.[1] Men come even to the point of saying that free will is free judgment in matters of will,

happiness than of his own, as a shepherd is to take more care of his flock than of himself."

20. In *Par.* 18 occurs what Butler calls the "apotheosis of the personified empire," and there its relation to justice is made plain. See note 2 in the present chapter of *De Mon.*

21. That "Justice is preëminent only under a Monarch."

1. Freedom of the will is discussed in *Par.* 5. 19 ff.

and they say true; but the import of their words is far from them, as from our logicians who work daily with certain propositions used as examples in books of logic; for instance, that "a triangle has three angles equaling two right angles."[2]

2. Judgment, I affirm, stands between apprehension and desire; for first a thing is apprehended; then the apprehension is adjudged good or bad; and finally he who so judges pursues or avoids it.[3] So if judgment entirely

2. Moore says that this thought is repeated more than twenty times in Aristotle, e. g. *Analyt. Prior.* 2. 21; *Magna Moral.* 1. 1: "It would be absurd if a man wishing to prove that the angles of a triangle were equal to two right angles assumed that the soul is immortal."

3. *Conv.* 1. 12. 4: "Although all virtue is lovable in man, that is most so which is most peculiarly human; and this is justice which belongs only to the reason or intellect, that is, the will."

Conv. 4. 9. 3: "There are actions . . . which our reason considers as within the province of the will, such as to offend or to help; . . . and these are entirely under the control of our will, and therefore from them are we called good or wicked, because they are all our own."

Conv. 4. 18. 1: "All the moral virtues come from one principle, which is a good and habitual choice."

Purg. 18. 19: 'The mind which is created ready to love is quick to move to everything which pleases it so soon as by the pleasure it is aroused to action. Your apprehensive power draws an intention from an essence which speaks true, and

controls desire, and is hindered by it in no way, judgment is free; but if desire influences judgment by hindering it in some manner, judgment cannot be free, for it acts not of itself, but is dragged captive by another. Thus brutes cannot have free judgment, for their judgments are always hindered by appetite. And thus intellectual substances whose wills are immutable,[4] and disembodied souls[5] who have departed in peace, do not lose freedom of the will by reason of this immutability, but retain it in greatest perfection and power.

displays it within you, so that it makes the mind turn to that."

Par. 13. 118: "It occurs that oftentimes the current opinion swerves in a false direction, and afterwards the desire binds the understanding."

4. Cf. *supra*, 1. 3. 2, and note 10. *Conv.* 2. 6. 7: "These motive powers guide by their thought alone the revolutions over which each one presides."

5. *Conv.* 2. 9. 3: "The soul . . . having left it [the body], it endures forever in a nature more than human."

Conv. 2. 1. 4: "The soul, in forsaking its sins, becomes holy and free in its powers." So Virgil assures Dante when he has reached the Earthly Paradise, *Purg.* 27. 140: "Await no more my word or my sign; free, right, and sound is thy judgment, and it were a fault not to act according to its thought, wherefore, thee over thyself I crown and mitre."

And of children, *Par.* 32. 40: "Spirits set free before that they had true power of choice."

3. With this in mind we may understand that this freedom, or basic principle of our freedom, is, as I said, the greatest gift bestowed by God upon human nature, for through it we attain to joy here as men, and to blessedness there as gods.[6] If this is so, who will not admit that

6. *Purg.* 18. 55: "Man knows not whence comes the understanding of the first cognitions, and the affection of the first objects of appetite, for they are in you, as in the bee the desire of making its honey; and this first volition admits not desert of praise or blame. Now, whereas about this every other gathers itself, there is innate in you the faculty which counsels, and which should hold the threshold of assent. This is the principle whereto occasion of desert in you is attracted, according as it gathers up and winnows out good or guilty love. They who in reasoning have gone to the foundation have taken note of that innate liberty, wherefore they have left morality to the world. Whence let us lay down that of necessity arises every love which kindles itself in you; of keeping it in check the power is in you. The noble faculty Beatrice understands for free will."

Par. 5. 19: "The greatest gift which God of His bounty made in creating, and the most conformed to His goodness, and that which He most values, was the freedom of the will, wherewith the creatures that have intelligence all, and they only, were and are endowed." Giuliani says that some MSS. add to these lines of the *De Mon.*, "sicut in Paradiso comediae jam dixi." Whatever scribe originally inserted them found their pronounced relationship to *Par.* 5. 19.

See also *S. T.* 1. 59. 3: "Only that which has intellect can act by free judgment; . . . wherever intellect is, there is judgment."

mankind is best ordered when able to use this principle most effectively? But the race is most free under a Monarch. Wherefore let us know that the Philosopher holds in his book *concerning simple Being*, that whatever exists for its own sake and not for the sake of another is free.[7] For whatever exists for the sake of another is conditioned by that other, as a road by its terminus. Only if a Monarch rules can the human race exist for its own sake; only if a Monarch rules can the crooked policies[8] be straightened, namely democracies, oligarchies, and tyrannies which force mankind into slavery,[9] as he sees who goes among them, and under which kings, aristocrats called the best men, and zealots of popular liberty play at politics.[10] For since

7. *Metaphys.* 1. 2. This treatise Dante calls *de simpliciter Ente*, here and 1. 13. 1; 1. 15. 1; 3. 14. 4, but *Prima Philosophia* in 3. 12. 1.

Conv. 3. 14. 3: "The noble and intellectual soul, free in her special power, which is reason; . . . and the Philosopher says in the first of the *Metaphysics*, that that thing is free which exists for itself and not for another."

8. "Crooked policies;" in the Latin, "politiae obliquae."

9. Reference to political servitude is common in Dante, e. g. *Purg.* 6. 76: "Ah Italy! thou slave, hostel of woe!"

10. In *Pol.* 3. 7. 2–5, we find: "A tyranny is a monarchy where the good of one man only is the object of government, an oligarchy considers only the rich, and a democracy

a Monarch loves men greatly, a point already touched upon, he desires all men to do good, which cannot be among players at crooked policies. Whence the Philosopher in his *Politics* says, "Under bad government the good man is a bad citizen; but under upright government 'good man' and 'good citizen' have the same meaning."[11] Upright governments have liberty as their aim, that men may live for themselves; not citizens for the sake of the consuls, nor a people for a king, but conversely, consuls for the sake of the citizens, and a king for his people.[12] As governments are not all established for the sake of laws, but laws for governments, so those living under the laws are not ordered for the sake of the legislator, but rather he for

only the poor, but no one of them has the common good of all in view."

The word "politizant," occurring here, Witte defines as "regnare et civitati praeesse." Wicksteed translates it "have a real policy." I find that Milton used an Anglicized form of the word in his *Reformation in England*, 2: "Let me not for fear of a scarecrow, or else through hatred to be reformed, stand hankering and politizing, when God with spread hands testifies to us." So I translate the word "play at politics."

11. *Pol.* 3. 4. 3, 4.

12. "It is impossible to conceive a people without a prince, but not a prince without a people." In his essay on *Dante* Lowell quotes this saying of Calvin's.

them, as the Philosopher maintains in what he has left us concerning the present matter.[13] Wherefore it is also evident that although consul or king may be lord of others with respect to means of governing, they are servants with respect to the end of governing; and without doubt the Monarch must be held the chief servant of all. Now it becomes clear that a Monarch is conditioned in the making of laws by his previously determined end. Therefore the human race existing under a Monarch is best ordered, and from this it follows that a Monarchy is essential to the well-being of the world.

CHAPTER XIII

He who is best adapted for ruling is the best director of other men.

1. He who is capable of the best qualification for ruling can best qualify others. In every action the chief intent of the agent, whether it act by necessity of nature or by choice, is to unfold its own likeness;[1] whence it is that every

13. *Pol.* 4. 1. 9.

1. *Conv.* 3. 2. 2: "Each effect contains something of the nature of its cause." *L. c.* 3. 14. 1: "For the virtue of one thing to descend upon another, that other thing must be brought

agent, in so far as it acts in this way, delights in action. Since every existent thing desires its existence, and since an agent in action amplifies its existence to a certain extent, delight necessarily ensues, for delight is bound up in the thing desired.[2] Nothing can act, therefore, unless existing already as that which the thing acted upon is to become; and therefore the Philosopher states in his writings *of simple Being:* "Every reduction from potentiality to actuality is accomplished by an actuality of like kind;"[3] for if anything attempted to act under other conditions, it would try in vain. Thus may be destroyed the error of those men who believe by speaking good and doing evil they can inform others with life and character; and who forget that the hands of Jacob, though false witnesses, were more persuasive than his words, though true.[4] Hence

to the first one's likeness; as we see plainly in all natural agencies, whose descending upon passive things brings them to resemble those agencies in so far as they are capable of so doing." So in *Conv.* 4. 22. 4. And see note 5, *De Mon.* 1. 2.

2. *Conv.* 2. 9. 2: "Every cause loves its effect."

3. *Metaphys.* 8. 8. See *Par.* 29. 34: "Pure potency held the lowest place; in the midst clasped potency with act such a withe as never is untwisted." *S. T.* 1. 54–59; 1–2. 3. 2. Also note 10, *De Mon.* 1. 3.

4. *Gen.* 27. 22: "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." Cf. *De Mon.* 2. 12. 5.

the Philosopher *to Nicomachus:* "In matters of passion and action, words are less trustworthy than deeds."[5] And hence the message from heaven to the sinner David: "What hast thou to do to declare my statutes?"[6] As if it had said, "In vain thou speakest, being other than thy words." From which we may gather that he who would best qualify others must himself be supremely qualified.

2. That only a Monarch can be supremely qualified for ruling is thus proved. Everything is more easily and perfectly adapted to any state or activity as there is present in it less of opposition to such adaptation. So those who have never heard of philosophy come more easily to a comprehension of philosophic truth than those who have heard often thereof, but are imbued with false opinions. So Galen[7] says with right:

5. *Eth.* 10. 1. 3: "Arguments about matters of feeling and action are less convincing than facts."

6. *Ps.* 50. 16. Note that the "sinner" may yet be "holiest of kings" in the following paragraph. See article on David, Toynbee's *Dante Dictionary.*

7. Claudius Galen (130–200 A. D.), the celebrated physician of Pergamum in Asia, was up to the sixteenth century the most famous physician of antiquity with the exception of Hippocrates. Some eighty-three treatises, medical and philosophical, written by him are still extant. See *Inf.* 4. 143. The quotation about the difficulty of unlearning false knowledge is from *De Cognoscendis Animi Morbis,* c. 10.

"Such men need double time for gaining knowledge." Now, as was shown above, a Monarch can have no occasion for cupidity, or rather less occasion than any other men, even other princes,[8] and cupidity is the sole corrupter of judgment and hindrance to Justice; so the Monarch is capable of the highest degree of judgment and Justice, and is therefore perfectly qualified, or especially well qualified, to rule. Those two qualities are most befitting a maker and executor of the law, as that holiest of kings testifies by his petition to God for the attributes meet for a king and the son of a king, praying: "Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son."[9]

3. It was rightly assumed, then, that the Monarch alone is capable of supreme qualification to rule. Hence the Monarch is best able to direct others. Therefore it follows that for the best ordering of the world, Monarchy is necessary.

8. *De Mon.* 1. 11. 5.

9. *Ps.* 72. 1. *Par.* 13. 94: "I have not so spoken that thou canst not well see that he was a king who asked wisdom, to the end that he might be a competent king."

CHAPTER XIV

What one agent can do is better done by one than by many.

1. When it is possible to do a thing through one agent, it is better done through one than through more.[1] We prove it in this way: Let A be one agent able to accomplish a given end, and let A and B be two through whom the same thing can be accomplished. If the end accomplished through A and B can be accomplished through A alone, B is added uselessly, as nothing results from the addition of B which would not have resulted from A alone. Now inasmuch as every addition is idle and superfluous,[2] and every superfluity is displeasing to God and Nature, and everything displeasing to God and Nature is evil, as is self-evident; it follows not only that whatever can be done through one agent is better done through one than through more, but that whatever done through one is

1. Moore shows that the basic idea of this chapter is found in many places in Aristotle: *De Part. Anim.* 3. 4; *Phys.* 7. 6, etc. This idea reappears in *Quaestio de Aqua et Terra* 13. 34 (Oxford ed.): "Quia quod potest fieri per unum, melius est quod fiat per unum quam per plura."

2. Another common Aristotelian notion. See *De Caelo* 1. 4; *De Gen. Anim.* 2. 6.

good, done through more becomes manifestly evil. Further, a thing is said to be better the nearer it approaches the best. Its end partakes of the character of the best. But what is done by one agent is nearer its end, and therefore better. That it is nearer its end we see thus: Let there be an end C to be reached by a single agent A, or by a dual agent A and B. Evidently the way from A through B to C is longer than from A straight to C. Now humanity can be ruled by one supreme Prince who is Monarch.

2. But it must be noted well that when we assert that the human race is capable of being ruled by one supreme Prince, it is not to be understood that the petty decisions of every municipality can issue from him directly, for municipal laws do fail at times and have need of regulation, as the Philosopher shows in his commendation of equity[3] in the fifth book *to Nicomachus*. Nations, kingdoms, and cities have individual conditions which must be governed by different laws. For law is the directive prin-

3. "Equity." Dante writes ἐπιείχειαν — one of the Greek words that found their way into mediaeval translations of Aristotle, and were "cruelly mauled by the scribes," says Wicksteed. The reference is to *Eth.* 5. 10: "And this is the nature of the equitable, that it is the correction of law, wherever it is defective owing to its universality."

ciple of life. The Scythians,[4] living beyond the seventh clime,[5] suffering great inequality of days and nights, and oppressed by a degree of cold almost intolerable, need laws other than the Garamantes,[6] dwelling under the equinoctial circle, who have their days always of equal length with their nights, and because of the unbearable heat of the air cannot endure the useless burden of clothing. But rather let it be understood that the human race will be governed by him in general matters pertaining to all peoples, and through him will be guided to peace by a government common to all. And this rule, or law, individual princes should receive from him, just

4. The Scythians were vaguely understood to be the nomad tribes north of the Black Sea and the Caspian. Dante speaks of them again, *De Mon.* 2. 9. 3; 3. 3. 1.

5. Ptolemy's κλίματα or climates were belts of the earth's surface, divided by lines parallel to the equator. The length of day determined the position of each terrestrial climate, each having half an hour more than the preceding one. The seven climates of the northern hemisphere are described by Alfraganus in his *Elementa Astronomica.* The system of climates developed into that of the present parallels of latitude. Our word "climate" came from the application of a place name to the temperature of the region. See Toynbee's *Dict.* s. v. "Garamantes." Cf. *Conv.* 3. 5. 8.

6. The tribes south of the Great Desert were known as the Garamantes. See Lucan, *Phar.* 4. 334; 9. 369. In *Conv.* 3. 5. 8 they are described as men "who go almost always naked."

as for any operative conclusion the practical intellect receives the major premise from the speculative intellect, adds thereto the minor premise peculiarly its own, and draws the conclusion for the particular operation. This government common to all not only may proceed from one; it must do so, that all confusion be removed from principles of universal import. Moses himself wrote in the law that he had done this; for when he had taken the chiefs of the children of Israel, he relinquished to them minor decisions, always reserving for himself those more important and of larger application; and in their tribes the chiefs made use of those of larger application according as they might be applied to each tribe.[7]

3. Therefore it is better that the human race should be ruled by one than by more, and that the one should be the Monarch who is a unique Prince. And if it is better, it is more acceptable to God, since God always wills what is better. And inasmuch as between two things, that which is better will be likewise best, between this rule by "one" and this rule by "more," rule by "one"

7. *Exod.* 18. 17–26; *Deut.* 1. 10–18. Moses as lawgiver is frequently quoted in this treatise on Monarchy: 2. 4. 1; 2. 13. 2; 3. 5. 1, etc. Moses is honored together with Samuel and John in *Par.* 4. 29 as those who "have most part in God."

is acceptable to God not only in a comparative but in a superlative degree. Wherefore the human race is ordered for the best when ruled by one sovereign. And so Monarchy must exist for the welfare of the world.

CHAPTER XV

In every sort of thing that is best which is most one.

1. Likewise I affirm that being and unity and goodness exist *seriatim* according to the fifth mode of priority.[1] Being is naturally antecedent to unity, and unity to goodness; that which has completest being has completest unity and completest goodness. And as far as anything is from completest being, just so far is it from unity and also from goodness. That in every class of objects the best is the most unified, the Philosopher maintains in his treatise *on simple Being*.[2] From this it would seem that unity is the root of goodness, and multiplicity is the root of evil. Wherefore Pythagoras in his Correlations[3] placed unity on the side of

1. "Priority" translates the Latin word *prius*. See Arist. *Categ.* 12. Moore. *Conv.* 3. 2. 2: "The first of all things is being, and before it is nothing."

2. *Metaphys.* 1. 5.

3. The central thought in the Pythagorean philosophy is

good and multiplicity on the side of evil, as appears in the first book *on simple Being*.[4] We

number, it being the principle and essence of everything. The theory of opposites gave rise to the Pythagorean συστοιχία, parallel tables, or correlations: —

1.	Limited.	Unlimited.
2.	Odd.	Even.
3.	Unity.	Plurality.
4.	Right.	Left.
5.	Masculine.	Feminine.
6.	Rest.	Motion.
7.	Straight.	Crooked.
8.	Light.	Darkness.
9.	Good.	Evil.
10.	Square.	Oblong.

See the article on Pythagoras in Toynbee, *Studies*, pp. 87–96. *Conv.* 3. 11. 2: "In the time of Numa Pompilius . . . there lived a most noble philosopher, called Pythagoras."

4. *Metaphys.* as in note 2. Cf. *Conv.* 2. 14. 10: "Pythagoras . . . puts odd and even as the principles of natural things, considering all things as number."

The unity of goodness is one of the cardinal points in Dante's philosophy. It is his theory of form and his theory of justice. So the poet of the *Divine Comedy* makes God in the Empyrean visualized unity, as Satan in Hell is visualized multiplicity. *Par.* 28. 16: "I saw a point which radiated light so keen that the sight which it fires must needs close itself. . . . From that point depends the heaven and all nature."

Par. 33. 85: "I saw how there enters, bound with love in one volume, that which is distributed through the universe; substance and accident and their fashion, as though fused together in such wise that that which I tell of is one single

can thus see that to sin is naught else than to despise unity, and to depart therefrom to multiplicity; which the Psalmist surely felt when he said, "By the fruit of their corn and wine and oil are they multiplied."[5]

2. Therefore it is established that every good thing is good because it subsists in unity. As concord is a good thing in itself, it must subsist in some unity as its proper root, and this proper root must appear if we consider the nature or meaning of concord. Now concord is the uniform movement of many wills; and unity of will, which we mean by uniform movement, is the root of concord, or rather concord itself. For just as we should call many clods concordant because all descend together toward the centre, and many flames concordant because they ascend together to the circumference, if they did this voluntarily, so we call many men concordant because they move together by their volition to one end formally present in their wills; while in the case of the clods is formally present the single attribute of gravity, and in the flames the single attribute of levity.[6] For power of willing

light. The universal form of this knot I believe I saw." See *Inf.* 34. 37 for the description of Satan.

5. *Ps.* 4. 7.

6. *Eth.* 2. 1. 2: "The stone which by nature goes down-

is a certain potentiality, but the species of goodness which it apprehends is its form, which, like other forms, is a unity multiplied in itself according to the multiplicity of the receiving material, just as soul, number, and other forms subject to composition.[7]

ward could never be accustomed to go upward, . . . nor could fire be accustomed to burn downward."

Conv. 3. 3. 1: "Everything . . . has its special love; as simple bodies have a natural love for their own place; wherefore earth always falls toward the centre, and fire is drawn toward the circumference above."

Inf. 32. 73: "We were going toward the centre, to which all gravity is collected." *L. c.* 34. 110: "The point to the which from every part the weights are drawn."

Purg. 18. 28: "As the fire moves on high, by reason of its form, so . . . the mind seized enters into desire, which is a motion of the spirit." Also *Purg.* 32. 109.

Par. 1. 115: "This bears away the fire toward the moon; this is the motive power in the hearts of men; this binds the earth together and makes it one." Cf. *Par.* 1. 133, 141; 4. 77; 23. 42.

7. The species of good which anything apprehends is its form, that principle which makes it what it is. In this case the volitional power of willing is the material or matter, while the species or sort of goodness which is the end of the volition is the form. So it makes no difference how many people will, so long as they will the same thing, for the form is then the same, if the material is various.

The composite character of the soul is treated *Conv.* 3. 2. 3, where it is shown to have three powers, vegetable, sensitive, and rational according to Arist. *De Caelo* 2. See *Purg.* 25. 74.

3. These things being premised, we may argue as follows for the proposed exposition of the original assumption: All concord depends upon unity in wills; mankind at its best is a concord of a certain kind. For just as one man at his best in body and spirit is a concord of a certain kind,[8] and as a household, a city, and a kingdom is likewise a concord, so it is with mankind in its totality. Therefore the human race for its best disposition is dependent on unity in wills. But this state of concord is impossible unless one will dominates and guides all others into unity, for as the Philosopher teaches in the last book *to Nicomachus*, mortal wills need directing because of the alluring delights of youth.[9] Nor is this directing will a possibility unless there is one common Prince whose will may dominate and guide the wills of all others.[10]

8. *Conv.* 3. 8. 1: "Of all the works of Divine wisdom, man is the most wonderful, considering how Divine power has united three natures under one form, and how subtly harmonized must his body be with that form."

Conv. 3. 15. 5: "The beauty of the body results from the proper ordering of its members."

Conv. 4. 25. 7: "The proper ordering of our members produces a pleasure of I know not what wonderful harmony."

9. *Eth.* 10. 9. 8: "To live temperately and patiently is not pleasant to the majority, and especially to the young."

10. *Conv.* 4. 9. 3: "We may almost say of the Emperor,

If the conclusions above are true, as they are, Monarchy is essential for the best disposition of mankind; and therefore for the well-being of the world Monarchy should exist therein.

CHAPTER XVI

Christ willed to be born in the fullness of time when Augustus was Monarch.

1. A phenomenon not to be forgotten attests the truth of all the arguments placed in order above, namely, that condition of mortals which the Son of God, when about to become man for the salvation of man, either awaited, or ordained at such time as He willed.[1] For if from the fall

wishing to represent his office by a figure, that he is the rider of human will. And it is very evident how wildly this horse goes over the field without a rider."

1. For the outline of the argument in this chapter see Orosius, *Hist.* 6. 22. 5.

Conv. 4. 5. 2: "The immeasurable Divine Goodness, wishing to bring back to Itself the human creature, which by the sin of the transgression of the first man had become separated from God and unlike Him, it was decreed . . . that the Son of God should descend to earth to bring about this reunion. And since at His . . . coming it behoved not only the heavens, but the earth, to be in the best condition, and the best condition of the earth is under a monarchy . . . therefore Divine Providence ordained the people and the city wherein this should be fulfilled, that is, Rome the glorious."

of our first parents, at which point of departure began all our error,[2] we survey the ordering of men and times, we shall find no perfect Monarchy, nor the world everywhere at peace, save under the divine Monarch Augustus.[3] That

De Mon. Book 2 is devoted to this subject of Rome's foreordination.

2. The result of Adam's sin Matilda touches on in her discourse with Dante on the nature of the terrestrial Paradise, *Purg.* 28. 91: "The highest Good, which does only its own pleasure, made the man good and for good, and gave him this place for an earnest to him of eternal peace. Through his own default he abode here little time; through his own default he changed to weeping and toil honest laughter and sweet mirth."

Par. 7. 26: "For not enduring to the faculty that wills any curb for its own advantage, that man who was never born, in damning himself, damned all his progeny." See *De Mon.* 2. 13. 1, and notes.

3. In the image symbolic of human history, *Inf.* 14. 94 ff., Dante identifies the golden age with the reign of Augustus. Line 112: "Every part beside the gold is burst with a cleft which drips tears."

Par. 6. 55: "Hard upon that time when the heaven wholly willed to bring back the world to its tranquil order, Caesar by the will of Rome bare it. . . . It laid the world in such a peace that Janus had his shrine locked up."

Conv. 4. 5. 3: "Nor ever was, nor ever will be, this world so perfectly disposed as then. . . . Universal peace reigned, which never was before nor ever will be again, because the ship of human society sped over a smooth sea straight to its destined port."

men were then blessed with the tranquillity of universal peace all historians testify, and all illustrious poets; this the writer of the gentleness of Christ[4] felt it meet to confirm, and last of all Paul, who called that most happy condition "the fulness of the time."[5] Verily, time and all temporal things were full, for no ministry to our happiness lacked its minister. But what has been the condition of the world since that day the seamless robe[6] first suffered mutilation by the claws of avarice, we can read — would that we could not also see! O human race! what tempests must need toss thee, what treasure be thrown into the sea, what shipwrecks must be endured,[7] so long as thou, like a beast of many heads,[8] strivest after diverse ends! Thou art

4. *Luke* 2. 1, 14.

5. *Gal.* 4. 4: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Cf. *Eph.* 1. 10.

6. *John* 19. 23: "Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout." Dante uses the figure here to denote the undivided empire. The papal party used the same figure in their arguments to denote undivided ecclesiastical authority. *De Mon.* 3. 10. 4.

7. This figure of the ship of human society is found in *Conv.* 4. 5. 3 (see note 3 of the present chapter), *Purg.* 6. 77: "Ah, Italy . . . ship without a pilot in a great tempest," etc.

8. This mixed metaphor of Dante's, "dum bellua multo-

sick in either intellect,[9] and sick likewise in thy affection. Thou healest not thy high understanding by argument irrefutable, nor thy lower by the countenance of experience. Nor dost

rum capitum factum," is a further illustration of the evil of multiplicity and lack of concord in men's wills. Cf. *De Mon.* 1. 15. 1, and note. Beside the evil of many discordant wills, there is reference to the evils that may be included under the term "bestial." See *Conv.* 4. 5. 3: "Vile beasts that pasture in the shape of men." See especially *Inf.*, cantos 12–17. Also note 14, *De Mon.* 2. 3.

9. The two intellects were the possible or apprehensive intellect, and the active intelligence. Cf. *De Mon.* 1. 3. 2. To these two powers Dante adds that of affection.

Purg. 18. 55: "Man knows not whence comes the understanding of the first cognitions, and the affection of the first objects of appetite."

Par. 1. 120: "Creatures . . . that have intellect and love."

Par. 6. 122; 13. 120; 15. 43: "When the bow of his ardent affection was so slackened that his speech descended towards the mark of our understanding, the first thing that was by me understood was, 'Blessed be Thou, threefold and one.'" *L. c.* 15. 73: "The affection and the thought when as the first Equality appeared to you, became of one weight for each of you."

The two intellects and the affection are the threefold means given to man by which he may arrive at the unity which is goodness in completeness, and there may see and know God. This suggests the means by which Dante achieves his vision in the *Divine Comedy* — Virgil, Beatrice, and St. Bernard.

thou heal thy affection by the sweetness of divine persuasion, when the voice of the Holy Spirit breathes upon thee, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" [10]

10. *Ps.* 133. 1.

BOOK II

WHETHER THE ROMAN PEOPLE RIGHTFULLY APPROPRIATED THE OFFICE OF MONARCHY

CHAPTER I

Introduction.

1. "WHY do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, 'Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their yoke from us.'"[1]

2. We are wont to marvel at any strange effect when we have never beheld the face of its cause,[2] and, when we have learned to know the cause, to look down with a sort of derision on those still lost in astonishment. I, in truth,

1. *Ps.* 2. 1–3. Cf. *Acts* 4. 25–27. The same language of the Psalm is used in *Letter 6.* 2: "To the infamous Florentines within the city."

2. *Conv.* 4. 25. 4: "The sight of great and wonderful things . . . make those that perceive them desire to know them."

Purg. 28. 90: "I will tell how by its cause proceeds that which makes thee wonder; and I will purge away the cloud which smites."

Par. 1. 83: "The strangeness of the sound and the great light kindled in me a desire for their cause never before felt with such keenness."

at one time marveled that without resistance the Roman people had become sovereign throughout the earth; for, looking merely superficially at the matter, I believe they had obtained sovereignty not by right, but by force of arms alone.[3] However, after the eyes of my mind had pierced to the marrow thereof, and I had come to understand by most convincing tokens that Divine Providence had effected this thing, my wonder vanished, and in its place rises a certain derisive contempt when I hear the heathen raging against the preëminence of the Roman race; when I see people, as I was wont, imagining a vain thing; when, more than all, I find to my grief kings and princes concordant only in the error[4] of

3. *Conv.* 4. 4. 3: "Some may demur, saying . . . the Roman power was not acquired by reason, nor by decree of a universal convention, but by force."

Conv. 4. 4. 5: "Force was not the active cause; . . . not force but law, and that Divine, was the beginning of the Roman Empire."

4. Reading "in hoc vitio" (in the error) and "unico suo" (His one) with Moore and Witte, rather than "in hos unico" and "uncto suo" with Giuliani. See Toynbee, *Dante Studies*, p. 302, for his interesting support of Giuliani's reading and its bearing on the date of the *De Mon.* If, as he believes, "uncto" definitely refers to Henry VII as the Lord's "anointed," there would be strong reason for dating the treatise at a time shortly after Henry's coming to Italy.

The whole of par. 2 is interesting for the information it

taking counsel together against their Lord and His one Roman Prince. Wherefore, on behalf of this glorious people and of Caesar I exclaim, in derision that is also sorrow, with him who cried aloud on behalf of the Prince of heaven, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed."

3. Yet lasting derision is not compatible with natural love, but as the summer sun, rising splendid above the scattered mists of morning, sheds abroad its beams, so love, dispelling its derision, would send forth an amending light.[5] To break asunder, then, the bonds of ignorance for those kings and princes, to prove the human race free from their yoke, I will exhort myself, as did that most holy prophet whom I follow, with the words that come in order after, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

contains concerning the change of political opinion that came upon Dante at some time in his life and made him one of the most enthusiastic and idealistic of Ghibellines, so idealistic indeed that in *Purg.* 27. 69 Cacciaguida rightly prophesies of the poet, "It shall be honorable to thee to have made thee a party by thyself."

5. This figure is found again *Conv.* 2. 14. 3: "Labor of study and strife of doubt . . . are dissipated almost like little morning clouds before the face of the sun."

4. These two things will be done well enough if I proceed with the second part of my main proposition, and reveal the truth of the question now pending. For when it is proved that the Roman Empire existed by right, not only will the clouds of ignorance be cleared from the eyes of kings and princes who usurp to themselves public guidance, falsely believing that the Roman people had done so, but all mortals will know that they are free from the yoke of usurpers. Nor will the truth be revealed in the light of human reason alone, but also in the radiance of divine authority. And when these two unite together, heaven and earth must together give approval.[6] Resting, therefore, in that trust of which I have previously spoken,[7] and supported by the testimony of reason and authority, I enter upon the solution of the second question.

CHAPTER II

What God wills in human society is to be held as right.

1. Now that the truth of the first question has been investigated as adequately as the subject-matter permitted, the second question urges

6. *Par.* 25. 2: "The sacred poem to which both heaven and earth have set a hand."

7. *De Mon.* 1. 1. 2.

us to investigate its truth as to whether the Roman people appropriated the dignity of empire by Right. The starting-point of this investigation is that verity to which the arguments of the present inquiry may be referred as to their own first principle.[1]

2. It must be understood, therefore, that as art exists in a threefold degree, in the mind of the artist, in the instrument, and in the matter informed by the art,[2] so may Nature be looked upon as threefold. For Nature exists in the mind of the Primal Motor, who is God,[3] and then in heaven, as in the instrument through whose mediation the likeness of eternal goodness is unfolded on fluid matter.[4] When the

1. *De Mon.* 1. 2. 2; 3. 2. 1.

2. *Gen. Anim.* 5. 8. *Conv.* 3. 6. 2: "Motive Powers . . . cause . . . all general forms."

3. *Letter 5.* 8: "From the motion of the heavens we should know the Motor and His will."

Par. 2. 131: "The heaven which so many lights make fair, from the deep mind of Him who revolves it takes the image." *L. c.* 30. 107; 33. 145: "The Love which moves the sun and all the stars."

Cf. *De Mon.* all of chapter 1. 8, and note 1.

4. "In fluitantem materiam."

Par. 29. 22: "Form and matter in conjunction and in purity came forth to an existence which had no erring, as from a three-stringed bow three arrows." Cf. *De Mon.* 1. 3. 2, and note 10.

S. T. 1. 46. 2: "The angels are pure form; form con-

artist is perfect, and his instrument without fault, any flaw that may appear in the form of the art can then be imputed to the matter only. Thus, since God is ultimate perfection, and since heaven, his instrument, suffers no defect in its required perfectness (as a philosophic study of heaven makes clear),[5] it is evident that whatever flaw mars lesser things is a flaw in the subjected material,[6] and outside the intention of God working through Nature,[7] and of heaven; and that whatever good is in lesser things cannot come from the material itself, which exists only potentially, but must come first from the artist, God, and secondly from the instrument of

joined with matter appears in the visible creation; pure matter is not perceivable by the senses, but must be held to exist, and to have been created." Also *S. T.* 1. 105. 4.

5. *Inf.* 11. 97: "Philosophy . . . notes . . . how nature takes her course from the understanding of God, and from His workmanship."

6. *Conv.* 3. 6. 2: "And if this perfect form, copied and individualized, be not perfect, it is from no defect in the example, but in the matter of which the individual is made."

Par. 1. 127: "Form many times accords not with the intention of the art, because the matter is deaf to respond."

Par. 13. 67: "The wax of these and that which moulds it stands not in one manner, and therefore under the seal of the Idea more and less thereafter shines through."

7. "Praeter intentionem Dei naturantis et caeli."

divine art, heaven, which men generally call Nature.[8]

3. From these things it is plain that inasmuch as Right is good, it dwells primarily in the mind of God; and as according to the words, "What was made was in Him life,"[9] everything in the mind of God is God, and as God especially wills what is characteristic of Himself, it follows that God wills Right according as it is in Him. And since with God the will and the thing willed are the same, it follows further that the divine will is Right itself. And the further consequence of this is, that Right is nothing other than likeness to the divine will. Hence whatever is not consonant with divine will is not right, and whatever is consonant with divine will is right.[10] So to ask whether something is done

8. For the mediaeval account of creation and the part of the heavens therein see *S. T.* 1. 66. 1–3; 1. 110. 2; 1. 115. 3–6. Cf. Bacon, *Nov. Org.* 1. 66.

Conv. 4. 9. 1: "Universal Nature . . . has jurisdiction as far as the whole world extends."

James 1. 17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above."

9. *John* 1. 3, 4: "Omnia per ipsum facta sunt, et sine ipso factum est nihil, quod factum est. In ipso vita erat, et vita erat lux hominum." Moore says that Augustine twice quotes from these verses as Dante does here; "Quod factum est, in ipso vita erat."

10. *Par.* 32. 61: "The King through whom this realm

with Right, although the words differ, is the same as to ask whether it is done according to the will of God. Let this therefore base our argument, that whatever God wills in human society must be accepted as right, true, and pure.

4. Moreover, that should be remembered which the Philosopher teaches in the first book *to Nicomachus*, "Like certainty is not to be sought in every matter, but according as the nature of the subject admits it." [11] Wherefore our arguments will advance adequately under the principle established, if we investigate the Right of this great people through visible signs and the authority of the wise. The will of God is in itself an invisible attribute, but by means of things which are made the invisible attributes of God become perceptible to the intellect.[12]

rests in so great love and in so great delight that no will dares aught beyond, creating all the minds in the joy of His countenance, as His own pleasure endows with grace diversely."

Par. 19. 86: "The primary Will, which is of itself good, never has moved from itself, that is the highest Good."

11. *Eth.* 1. 7. 18. Used again in *Conv.* 4. 13. 3: "And in the first of the *Ethics* he says that 'the educated man demands certainty of knowledge about things, in so far as their nature admits of certainty.'"

12. *Rom.* 1. 20: "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made."

Conv. 3. 12. 3: "It is convenient to treat of things not

For, though a seal be hidden, the wax impressed therewith bears manifest evidence of the unseen signet;[13] nor is it remarkable that the divine

perceptible by the senses by means of things perceptible." See also *Conv.* 4. 10. 3; 4. 16. 7; 4. 22. 6: "The intellect . . . cannot have its perfect use (which is to behold God, who is Supreme Intelligence) except in so far as the Intellect considers Him, and beholds Him in His effects." *L. c.* 3. 8. 8: "All things which so overcome our intellect that we cannot see what they are, it is most fitting to treat by their effects."

Letter 5. 8: "Through those things which have been created by God the human creature sees the invisible things with the eyes of the intellect; and if from things better known those less known are evident to us, in like manner it concerns human apprehension that from the motion of the heavens we should know the Motor and His will."

13. The following are the more important of the many examples of Dante's use of the figure regarding the wax and seal. *Conv.* 1. 8. 7: "Utility stamps upon the memory the image of the gift, which is the nutriment of friendship, and the better the gift the stronger this impression is."

Conv. 2. 10. 5: "If wax had the sentiment of fear, it would be more afraid to come under the rays of the sun than stone would; because its nature makes it susceptible of a more powerful impression therefrom."

Inf. 11. 49: "The smallest circle stamps with its seal Sodom and Cahors."

Purg. 10. 45: "And she upon her action this speech imprinted — *Ecce ancilla Dei!* as aptly as a figure is made on wax by a seal."

Purg. 18. 39: "Not every seal is good, even though good be the wax."

Purg. 25. 95: "Here the neighboring air puts itself in that

will must be sought in signs, for the human will, except to him who wills, is discerned no way else than in signs.[14]

CHAPTER III

The Romans as the noblest people deserved precedence before all others.

1. I say with regard to this question, that the Roman people by Right and not by usurpation took to itself over all mortals the office of

form which the soul that has remained by its virtue stamps upon it."

Purg. 33. 79: "As wax by a seal, which changes not the figure impressed, so is my brain now stamped by you."

Par. 1. 41: The sun "to its own fashion moulds and seals the wax of the world."

Par. 2. 130: "And the heaven which so many lights make fair, from the mind of Him who revolves it takes the image, and makes thereof a seal."

Par. 7. 69: "That which from It immediately distils has no end thereafter, because when It seals, Its impress is unmoved."

Par. 8. 128: "The nature of the spheres . . . is seal to the mortal wax."

Par. 13. 67 ff. See note 6 of this chapter.

14. *Conv.* 4. 5. 1: "It is no wonder if Divine Providence, which transcends all human and angelic perception, often proceeds in a way mysterious to us; since it often happens that human actions have for men themselves a hidden meaning."

Monarchy, which men call the Empire. This may first be proved thus: It was meet that the noblest people should have precedence over all others; the Roman people was the noblest;[1] therefore it was meet that it should have precedence over all others. The major premise[2] is demonstrable, for, since honor is the reward of virtue, and all precedence is honor, all precedence is a reward of virtue.[3] It is agreed that men are ennobled as virtues of their own or their ancestors make them worthy. Nobility is "virtue and ancient wealth," according to the Philosopher in the *Politics*;[4] but according to Juvenal, "Virtue is the one and only nobility of soul."[5] These two definitions grant two

1. *Conv.* 4. 4. 4: "And because a nature more gentle in governing, more powerful in maintaining, and more subtle in acquiring, than that of the Latin people there never was and never will be, . . . therefore God elected them for this office." The nobility of Rome has special consideration *Conv.* 4. 5; *Par.* 6. 19, 20.

2. "Adsumpta," the major premise. In paragraphs 2 and 8 the word "subadsumpta" is used for minor premise.

3. *Eth.* 4. 3. 15.

4. *Pol.* 4. 8. 9. So we find in *Conv.* 4, *Canz.* 3. 2: "This very false opinion among men, that one is wont to call him noble who can say, 'I was the son or grandson of a truly noble man,' though he himself were worthless." In *Conv.* 4. 7 hereditary nobility is proved to be a thing impossible.

5. Juvenal, *Sat.* 8. 20. Cf. *Conv.* 4. 29. 4, where the

kinds of nobility, one's own and that of one's ancestors.[6]

2. By reason of the cause inherent in nobility the reward of precedence is befitting the noble. And as rewards should be commensurate with merits, in consonance with that saying of the Gospel, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again,"[7] the foremost rank should be to the noblest. As for the minor premise, the testimony of the ancients is convincing, since Virgil, our divine Poet,[8] through-

satire is discussed at some length. Dante speaks again of Juvenal in *Purg.* 22. 13. His relation to Dante is considered by Moore, Vol. 1, in *Studies*, pp. 255–258.

6. All of Book 4 in the *Convito* is given up to an exposition of the nature of nobility, according to the definition of Juvenal rather than that of Aristotle.

Canz. 3. 6: "Nobility exists where Virtue dwells, not Virtue where she is." *Conv.* 4. 18. 1: "All the virtues . . . proceed from nobility as an effect from its cause."

Par. 16. 1: "O small nobility of blood that is ours."

7. *Matt.* 7. 2.

8. "Divinus poeta nostra," or "poeta nostra," as Virgil is called throughout the *De Mon.*, is but one of the numberless evidences of the affection and reverence Dante felt for the Latin poet. Most beautiful is the well-known tribute in *Inf.* 1. 79:

> "O degli altri poeti onore e lume,
> Vagliami il lungo studio e il grande amore,
> Che m' ha fatto cercar lo tuo volume.
> Tu sei lo mio maestro e il mio autore:
> Tu sei solo colui, da cui io tolsi
> Lo bello stile, che m' ha fatto onore."

out his *Aeneid* testifies in everlasting remembrance that the father of the Roman people was Aeneas, the famous king; and Titus Livius, illustrious writer of Roman deeds, confirms this testimony in the first part of his volume which begins with the capture of Troy.[9] So great was the nobleness of this man, our ancestor most invincible and most pious, nobleness not only of his own considerable virtue, but that of his progenitors and consorts, which was transferred to him by hereditary right, that I cannot unfold it in detail, "I can but trace the main outlines of truth."[10]

3. As to his personal nobility, hearken to our poet in the first book of the *Aeneid*, introducing Ilioneus with the plea, "Aeneas was our king, than whom none other was more just and pious, none other greater in war and arms."[11] Hearken to him again in the sixth, when, speak-

For Virgil's place and influence in the Middle Ages see Comparetti, *Virgil in the Middle Ages*; Sellar, *Virgil*; and Moore, *Studies*, Vol. I. pp. 166–197.

9. Livy I. 1. As will be seen later in the *De Mon.*, Dante uses Livy freely as an historical authority. Moore writes of Dante's relation to the Roman historian in *Studies*, Vol. I. pp. 273–278.

10. *Aen.* I. 342: "Sed summa sequar vestigia rerum." All modern editions have "fastigia" for "vestigia."

11. *Aen.* I. 544.

ing of the dead Misenus, Hector's attendant in war, who entered the service of Aeneas after Hector's death, he says, Misenus "had followed no lesser fortunes."[12] This compares Aeneas with Hector, whom Homer[13] honors above all men, as the Philosopher affirms in that part of the writings to Nicomachus on "types of conduct to be avoided."[14]

4. As to his hereditary nobility, it accrues to him from the three continents of the earth through his ancestors and his consorts.

5. Asia ennobled him through his most immediate ancestors, Assaracus and those who had ruled over Phrygia, a region of Asia, as our poet records in these lines of the third book:

12. *Aen.* 6. 170. For the death of Misenus see *Conv.* 4. 26. 6.

13. Homer, *Il.* 24. 259, quoted *Eth.* 7. 1. 1. Three different times Dante uses these Homeric lines: in the *Vita Nuova*, § 2; in *Conv.* 4. 20. 2: "There are men most noble and divine . . . Aristotle proves in the seventh of the *Ethics* by the text of Homer the poet;" and in the passage of the *De Mon.* here being considered.

In regard to Dante's knowledge of Homer see Moore, *Studies*, Vol. 1. pp. 164–166; Toynbee, *Studies*, pp. 204–215.

14. In *Inf.* 11. 79–83 Virgil asks, "Hast thou no memory of those words with which the *Ethics* handle the three dispositions which Heaven brooks not, — incontinence, malice, and mad beastliness?"

"After it had seemed good to the gods to overturn the might of Asia and the race of Priam unmeriting their fate."[15] Europe ennobled him through Dardanus,[16] most ancient of his ancestors, and Africa through Electra, his most ancient ancestress, daughter of King Atlas of great renown. Concerning both of these facts our poet renders testimony in the eighth book, where Aeneas speaks thus to Evander: "Dardanus, the first founder of the city and father of Ilium, descended as the Greeks deem from Atlantian Electra,[17] came among the Teucrians. Electra was sprung from Atlas the mighty, who sustains the heavenly orbs upon his shoulders."[18]

6. The bard sings in the third book of Dardanus taking his origin from Europe, saying, "There is a place the Greeks have named Hes-

15. *Aen.* 3. 1.

16. Dardanus was son of Jupiter and Electra of Arcadia, founder of the city Dardania in Troas, and ancestor of the royal line of Troy. Cf. *Conv.* 4. 14. 9.

17. "Electra, ut Graii perhibent, Atlantide cretus." Dante inserted an "et" before "Atlantide," thereby blurring the sense. Moore was the first editor to correct the error. See Toynbee, *Studies*, p. 280.

Inf. 4. 121: "I saw Electra with many companions, among whom I was aware of Hector and Aeneas; . . . and I saw King Latinus, who was sitting with Lavinia his daughter."

18. *Aen.* 8. 134–137.

peria, an ancient country powerful in arms and fertile in soil, where dwell the Oenotrians. Rumor has it that later generations called the country Italy from the name of their leader. Here is our fatherland; from hence came Dardanus."[19] That Atlas came from Africa, the mountain is witness which there bears his name. This mountain Orosius[20] locates in Africa in his description of the world, where he says, "Now its uttermost bound is Mt. Atlas and the Islands which they call the Fortunate." "Its" refers to Africa, of which he was speaking.

7. I find also that nobility accrued to Aeneas through marriage. His first wife Creusa, daughter of Priam, was from Asia, as may be gathered from the facts quoted above. And that she was his wife our poet implies in the third book, when Andromache thus questions Aeneas concerning his son Ascanius: "What of the boy Ascanius, he whom Creusa bore to thee while

19. *Aen.* 3. 163–167.

20. The fourth-century historian, Paulus Orosius, wrote the *Historiae Adversum Paganos*, one of the chief historical and geographical authorities of the mediaeval centuries, and the source of many of Dante's statements regarding these two subjects. See Toynbee, *Studies*, pp. 121–136, and Moore, *Studies*, Vol. 1. pp. 279–282. The reference here is to *Hist.* 1. 2. 11.

Troy was yet smoking? Lives he still? Breathes he the vital air?"[21] His second wife was Dido, queen and mother of the Carthaginians in Africa, of whom as Aeneas' wife the poet sings in the fourth book: "Nor longer Dido dreams of secret love; she calls it marriage, hiding her sin beneath a name."[22] His third wife was Lavinia, mother alike of Albanians and Romans, daughter and also heir of King Latinus, if the testimony of our Poet be true in the last book, where he introduces Turnus conquered, supplicating Aeneas with this prayer: "Thou hast triumphed; and the Ausonians have beheld me vanquished lifting up my hands. Lavinia shall be thy wife."[23] This last consort was of Italy, most excellent region of Europe.

8. With these facts pointed out in evidence of our minor premise, who is not sufficiently convinced that the father of the Roman race, and therefore the race itself, was the noblest under heaven? Or from whom will still be hidden divine predestination in the twofold meeting in one man of blood from every part of the world?

21. *Aen.* 3. 339–340. From the latter line, "quem tibi iam Troja peperit fumante Creusa," modern editors omit the last three words as spurious.

22. *Aen.* 4. 171–172.

23. *Aen.* 12. 936–937. In *Par.* 6. 3 Aeneas is called "the ancient who carried off Lavinia."

CHAPTER IV

Because the Roman Empire was aided by miracles it was willed of God.

1. Furthermore, whatever is brought to its perfection by the help of miracles is willed of God, and therefore comes to pass by Right. The truth of this is patent from what Thomas [1] says in his third book *against the Heathen:* "A miracle is that which is done through divine agency beyond the commonly instituted order of things." [2] Here he proves that the working of miracles is competent to God alone, and he is corroborated by the word of Moses, that when the magicians of Pharaoh artfully used natural principles to bring forth lice and failed, they

1. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274 A. D.), the greatest of Dominicans, the pupil of Albertus Magnus, the friend of St. Bonaventura, and the author of the *Summa Theologica*, *Contra Gentiles*, and many other works. Moore points out the extent of Dante's debt to him in *Studies*, Vol. 1. pp. 311–318. The treatise *Contra Gentiles* here quoted was written to prove that Christian theology is the "sum and crown of all science."

2. *Conv.* 3. 7. 8: "The very foundation of our faith is in the miracles done by Him who was crucified, who created our reason and willed it to be less than His power." *L. c.* 3. 14. 5: "Every miracle may be reasonable to a higher intellect."

cried, "This is the finger of God."[3] If a miracle, then, is the immediate operation of the First Agent without the coöperation of secondary agents,[4] which Thomas himself proves clearly enough in the book just cited, then when portents are sent in favor of anything, it is wicked to deny that that thing comes to pass foreseen of God and well pleasing to Him. Hence piety accepts the contradictory, that the Roman Empire gained its perfection with the approval of miracles, that it was therefore willed of God, and consequently that it was and is by Right.

2. And it is established through the testimony of illustrious authors that God revealed His will in miracles in order that the Roman Empire might be brought to completion. For Livy states in the first part of his work that when Numa Pompilius, second king of the Romans, was sacrificing according to the religious rite of the Gentiles, a shield fell from heaven into the chosen city of God.[5] Lucan recalls this miracle in the ninth book of the *Pharsalia* in

3. *Exod.* 8. 19.

4. *Letter 5.* 8: "If there is time to survey the affairs of the worlds even to the triumph of Octavian, we shall see that some of them have completely transcended the heights of human valor, and that God has worked somewhat through men, just as through the medium of the new heavens."

5. Liv. 1. 20. 4; 5. 52. 7.

describing the incredible violence which Libya suffers from the south wind, where he says, "It was thus, surely, that to Numa as he sacrificed dropped the shield which the chosen youth of the patricians bears upon his neck in solemn march; south wind or north wind had robbed the peoples wearing our shields."[6]

3. And when the Gauls, having taken the rest of the city, trusted in the darkness of night to move stealthily to the Capitol, which alone stood between them and utter annihilation of the Roman name, Livy and many other distinguished chroniclers agree that the guards were awakened to defend the Capitol from the approach of the Gauls by the warning cry of a goose, unseen there previously.[7] This was remembered by Virgil when he described the shield of Aeneas in the eighth book: "On the summit of the Tarpeian citadel, before the temple,

6. Lucan, *Phar.* 9. 477. Lucan, to whom Dante is indebted "for a considerable amount of poetic material of different kinds," and Dante's relation to him, is discussed by Moore, *Studies*, Vol. 1. pp. 228–242. It is strange that Dante in this place cites as an instance of supernatural intervention a story which Lucan explains so rationally.

7. Liv. 5. 47. So in *Conv.* 4. 5. 4: "And did not God put forth His hand when the Gauls, having taken all Rome, stole into the Capitol by night, and only the voice of a goose made it known?"

Manlius stood guard and held the heights of the Capitol, while the newly builded palace of Romulus was rough with thatch. And here a silver goose flying through golden portals sang the presence of the Gauls on the very threshold."[8]

4. Also Livy tells among the gests of the Punic Wars that, when the nobility of Rome, overwhelmed by Hannibal, had sunk to such depths that nothing remained for the final destruction of the Roman power but the sacking of the city by the Carthaginians, a sudden and intolerable storm of hail made it impossible for the victors to follow up their triumph.[9]

5. Was not the flight of Cloelia a miracle? A woman, and captive during the siege of Porsenna, by the wonderful aid of God she rent her fetters asunder and swam the Tiber, as almost all historians[10] of Rome's affairs remember to that city's glory. Truly it behooved Him so to do, who through eternity foresees all things in the beauty of order.[11] Invisible He

8. *Aen.* 8. 652–656.

9. Liv. 26. 11; Oros. 4. 17.

10. Liv. 2. 13; Oros. 2. 5; Aurel. Victor, *De Viris Illust.* c. 13.

11. *Par.* 8. 97: "The Good which sets in revolution and contents all the realm which thou art scaling, makes its foresight to be virtue in these great bodies."

wrought wonders in behalf of things seen, in order that when He should be made visible He might do likewise in behalf of things unseen.[12]

CHAPTER V

The Roman people in subduing the world had in view the good of the state and therefore the end of Right.

1. Whoever contemplates the good of the state contemplates the end of Right, as may be explained thus. Right[1] is a real and personal relation of man to man, which maintained preserves society, and infringed upon destroys it.[2] That account in the *Digests*[3] does not teach

12. That is, before the birth of Christ the invisible God worked for the visible things of the world. Later, Christ, the visible God, worked for the invisible things of heaven. Cf. the argument at the end of *De Mon.* 2. 2.

1. "Jus" is not adequately translated by "right," for Dante makes the word include what we mean by justice, law, and at times duty.

2. *Eth.* 5. 6 concerns itself with political justice or right, the justice which should be practiced by men in society toward one another.

3. The *Digests* of the Roman law were originally drawn up by Justinian. The "descriptio" or account spoken of here is mentioned in *Conv.* 4. 9. 3: "It was written at the beginning of the old *Digests*, 'The written law is the art of goodness and equity.'" The reference may be found in the

what the essence of Right is; it simply describes Right in terms of practice. If our definition truly comprehends what Right is and wherefore, and if the end of all society is the common good of the individuals associated, then the end of all Right must be the common good, and no Right is possible which does not contemplate the common good. Tully justly notes in the first book of the *Rhetoric* that "The laws should always be interpreted for the good of the state."[4] For if the laws are not directed for the benefit of those under the laws, they are laws merely in name, they cannot be laws in reality. Law ought to bind men together for general advantage. Wherefore Seneca[5] says truly in his book on the *Four Virtues*, "Law is the bond of human society." So it is clear that whoever contemplates the good of the state contemplates

Dig. de Justitia et Jure 1. 1: "Jus est a justitia appellatum: nam ut eleganter Celsus definit, jus est ars boni et aequi."

4. *De Invent.* 1. 38. 68.

5. Seneca is not the author of *De Quatuor Virtutibus*, but Martin, abbot of Dumiens and Bishop of Braga, who wrote in the latter part of the sixth century two works, *De Remediis Fortuitorum* and *Formula Honestae Vitae sive Quatuor Virtutibus Cardinalibus*. In the latter book, c. 4, is the reference: "Justitia non nostra constitutio sed divina lex est, et vinculum societatis humanae." Cf. *Conv.* 3. 8. 5, where "the book of the *Four Cardinal Virtues*" is again used as authority.

the end of Right. If, therefore, the Romans had in view the good of the state, the assertion is true that they had in view the end of Right.

2. That in subduing the world the Roman people had in view the aforesaid good, their deeds declare. We behold them as a nation holy, pious, and full of glory, putting aside all avarice,[6] which is ever adverse to the general welfare, cherishing universal peace and liberty, and disregarding private profit to guard the public weal of humanity. Rightly was it written, then, that "The Roman Empire takes its rise in the fountain of pity."[7]

3. But inasmuch as external signs alone manifest to others the intention of all agents of free choice, and inasmuch as statements must be investigated according to the subject-matter, as we have said before, we shall have evidence enough on the present point if we bring forth indubitable proofs of the intention of the Roman

6. See note 12 of *De Mon.* I. 11.

7. The same sentiment is found in *Letter 5*. 3: "He is Caesar, and his majesty flows from the font of pity." The source of this quotation has recently been ascertained by Toynbee to be the Legend of St. Sylvester in the *Legenda Aurea* of Jacobus de Voragine (Archbishop of Genoa, 1292–1298). See Toynbee, *Studies*, p. 297. Dr. Albert S. Cook suggests comparison with the *Dies Irae* of Thomas of Celano, l. 24: "Salva me, fons pietatis."

people both in corporate assemblies and in individual persons.

4. Concerning corporate assemblies, in which individuals seem in a measure bound to the state, the solitary authority of Cicero in the second book *of Moral Duties* is sufficient. "So long," he says, "as the dominion of the Republic was upheld by benefits, not by injuries, war was waged in behalf either of allies or dominion, for a conclusion either beneficent or necessary. The Senate was a harbor of refuge for kings, peoples, and nations. Our magistrates and generals strove for praise in defending with equity and fidelity the provinces and the allies; so this government might rather have been called a defense than a dominion of the whole world."[8] So wrote Cicero.

5. Of individual persons I shall speak briefly. Can we say they were not intent on the common weal who in sweat, in poverty, in exile, in deprivation of children, in loss of limbs, and even in the sacrifice of their lives, strove to augment the public good?

8. *De Off.* 2. 8. 26, 27. From this work of Cicero's Dante quotes again in the last paragraph of this chapter and in *De Mon.* 2. 8. 7; 2. 10. 2. It is to the same book Dante owes the idea of sins of violence and sins of fraud as distinguished *Inf.* 11. 22–60. For an account of Dante's obligation to Cicero, see Moore, *Studies*, Vol. 1. pp. 258–273.

6. Did not the renowned Cincinnatus leave to us a sacred example, when he freely chose the time to lay aside that dignity which, as Livy says, took him from the plough to make him dictator? [9] After his victory, after his triumph, he gave back to the consuls the imperial sceptre, and voluntarily returned to toil at the plough handle behind his oxen. Cicero, disputing with Epicurus in his volume *of the Chief Good*, remembered and lauded this excellent action, saying, "And thus our ancestors took great Cincinnatus from the plough that he might become dictator." [10]

7. Did not Fabricius [11] give us a lofty example

9. Liv. 3. 26, 29; Oros. 2. 12. 8. In *Conv.* 4. 5. 4 the examples of Roman nobility are almost exactly the same as here, though cited in a different order. Moore calls attention to the similarity of this account, and that of *Conv.* 4. 5. 4, with Augustine's *De Civ. Dei* 5. 18. See also *Par.* 6. 46 for the names of illustrious Romans cited by Justinian as names worthy of being remembered.

10. *De Fin.* 2. 4. 12. This Ciceronian work Dante always calls *De Fine Bonorum.* The philosophy of Epicurus is considered by Dante, *Conv.* 4. 6. 6.

Inf. 10. 14: "In this part have their burial place with Epicurus all his followers, who make the soul dead with the body."

11. For Fabricius see *De Mon.* 2. 12, and *Purg.* 20. 25: "O good Fabricius, thou wouldst rather virtue with poverty than to possess great riches with crime."

of withstanding avarice, when, in the fidelity which held him to the Republic, though living in poverty he scorned with fitting words the great mass of proffered gold, repudiated, and refused it? Our poet has made the memory of this deed sure by singing in the sixth book of "Fabricius powerful in penury." [12]

8. Was not the example of Camillus memorable, valuing as he did laws above individual profit? According to Livy, while condemned to exile he liberated his harassed fatherland, restored to Rome what the Romans had been despoiled of in war,[13] and left the sacred city, though called back by the whole people; nor did he return thither until, by the authority of the senate, was sent to him his permit of repatriation.[14] And the poet commends this large-souled man in the sixth book, where he calls him "Camillus, the restorer of our ensigns." [15]

9. And did not Brutus first teach that the love of sons and of all others should be subordinated to the love of national liberty? When he was consul, Livy says, he delivered up to death his own sons for conspiring with the

12. *Aen.* 6. 844.
13. That is, what the Gauls had taken from them.
14. Liv. 5. 32 and 43.
15. *Aen.* 6. 825.

enemy.[16] In the sixth book our Poet revives the glory of this hero: "In behalf of beauteous liberty shall the father doom to death his own sons instigating new wars." [17]

10. Has not Mucius persuaded us that all things should be ventured for one's country? He surprised the incautious Porsenna, but at the last his own hand, which had failed of its task, he watched as it burned, with a countenance one might wear who gazed upon an enemy in torture. To this Livy also bears testimony, marveling.[18]

11. Now we name those most sacred martyrs of the Decii, who dedicated their lives an offering for the public good, as Livy recounts, extolling them to the extent not of their worth but of his power.[19] And next that ineffable sacrifice of Marcus Cato, the most austere defender

16. Liv. 2. 5; Oros. 2. 5; Valerius Maximus, *Memorab.* 5. 8. 1; Aurel. Victor, *De Viris Illust.* c. 10. Brutus is referred to as the man who in *Conv.* 4. 5. 4 "condemned his own son to death for love of the public welfare."

17. *Aen.* 6. 820.

18. Liv. 2. 12; Val. Max. 5. 12. Mucius has mention, *Conv.* 4. 5. 4, and *Par.* 4. 84: "Mucius stern to his own hand; . . . so stout a will is too rare."

19. Liv. 8. 9; 10. 28, 29; Val. Max. 1. 3; 5. 6; Aurel. Victor 26, 27. These men have a place, *Conv.* 4. 5. 4, and *Par.* 6. 47: "Decii and Fabii had the fame which I with good-will embalm."

of true liberty.[20] Because of their country's safety the darkness of death had no terror for the former two. The latter proved what liberty meant to him, when, in order that the love of freedom might blaze up in the world, he chose rather to depart from this life a free man than without freedom to abide therein. The lustre of all these names shines renewed in the words of Cicero in his writings *of the chief Good.* Here Tully says of the Decii: "When Publius Decius, chief of his house, a consul, devoted himself to liberty and charged at full speed into the Roman ranks, thought he at all of his own pleasure, when he should take it, and where? Or when, knowing he must die forthwith, he sought his death more ardently than Epicurus believed men should seek pleasure? Had his action not been justly lauded, his son

20. Cato of Utica, great-grandson of Cato the Censor. Dante's reverence for this man found expression in many ways. He is made guardian of the gate of Purgatory, and type of the soul liberated from sin by annihilation of the body. See *Purg.* 1 and 2. In *Purg.* 1. 73 Virgil recommends Dante to Cato thus: "He goes seeking freedom, which is so dear, as he knows who for it renounces life."

Conv. 4. 5. 4: "O most sacred heart of Cato, who will presume to speak of thee? Certainly nothing greater than silence can be said of thee." See also *Conv.* 3. 5. 8; 4. 6. 5; 4. 27. 2; 4. 28. 2.

would not in his fourth consulship have followed his example; nor afterwards his son's son waging war against Pyrrhus[21] have fallen in that battle, a consul, offering himself to the Republic the third sacrifice in uninterrupted succession."[22] And in the *Moral Duties* he said of Cato: "The cause of Marcus Cato was one with those who in Africa surrendered themselves to Caesar; and perchance with them it had been judged a crime had they taken their own lives, seeing that life was a lighter thing to them, and rules of conduct easier. But Cato, who had been endowed by nature with incredible seriousness, who strengthened this with unremitting constancy, and who persevered to the end in any resolution made or purpose undertaken, such a one must rather meet death than look upon the face of a tyrant."[23]

CHAPTER VI

He who purposes Right proceeds according to Right.

1. We have then demonstrated two things: one, that whoever purposes the good of the

21. Pyrrhus is mentioned *Par.* 6. 44, etc. Cf. *De Mon.* 2. 10. 5.

22. *De Fin.* 2. 19. 61.

23. *De Off.* 1. 31. 112.

commonwealth purposes the end of Right; the other, that the Roman people in subduing the world purposed the public good. We may now further our argument in this wise: Whoever has in view the end of Right proceeds according to Right; the Roman people in subjecting the world to itself had in view the end of Right, as we plainly proved in the chapter above;[1] therefore the Roman people in subjecting the world to itself acted with Right, and consequently appropriated with Right the dignity of Empire.

2. That this conclusion may be reached by all manifest premises, it must be reached by the one that affirms that whoever purposes the end of Right proceeds according to Right. For clearness in this matter, notice that everything exists because of some end, otherwise it would be useless, which we have said before is not possible.[2] And just as every object exists for its proper end, so every end has its proper object whereof it is the end. Hence it cannot be that any two objects, in as far as they are two, each expressing its individuality, should have in view the same end, for the same untenable conclusion would follow that one or the

1. See chapter 5.
2. *De Mon.* 1. 3, note 3.

other exists in vain. Since, as we have proved, there is a certain end of Right, to postulate that end is to postulate the Right, seeing it is the proper and intrinsic effect of Right. And since, as is clear by construction and destruction,[3] in any sequence an antecedent is impossible without its consequent (as "man" without "animal"), so it is impossible to attain a good condition of one's members without health; and so it is impossible to seek the end of Right without Right as a means, for each thing has toward its end the relation of consequent to antecedent. Wherefore it is very obvious that he who has in view the end of Right must proceed by the right means. Nor is that objection valid which is generally drawn from the Philosopher's words concerning "good counsel." He says indeed, "There is a kind of false syllogism in which a true conclusion may be drawn by means of a false middle."[4] Now if a true conclusion is sometimes reached through false premises, it is by accident, because the true conclusion is con-

3. "Construendo et destruendo." The first of these logical terms designates a refutation which proceeds from the antecedent to the consequent; the second, one that proceeds from the consequent to the antecedent.

4. *Eth.* 6. 9. 5. For "good counsel" Dante uses the word "eubalia," i. e. εὐβουλία.

veyed in the words of the inference. Of itself the true never follows from the false, though symbols of truth may follow from symbols of falsehood.[5] And so it is in actions. Should a thief aid a poor man with stolen goods, he yet could not be said to be giving alms; rather is his action one which would have the form[6] of alms had it been performed with the man's own substance. Likewise with the end of Right. For if anything calling itself the end of Right be reached other than by means of Right, it would be the end of Right, that is, the common good, only as the offering made from ill-gotten gains is an alms. Since in this proposition we are considering the existent, not the apparent ends of Right, the objection is invalid. The point we are seeking is therefore established.

5. "Signa tamen veri bene sequuntur ex signis, quae sunt signa falsi." "Signa" I take to mean "words;" Dante would say that words may be ambiguous, but not the ideas that they stand for.

6. No line in the *De Mon.* shows better the change in usage that has been undergone by this word "form," and how, from meaning the vitalizing, internal principle of a thing, it has come to be the symbol of externality.

Conv. 4. 27. 7 makes use of the thief again for demonstrative purposes.

Par. 5. 33: "Thou art desiring to make a good work of a bad gain."

CHAPTER VII

The Roman people were ordained for Empire by nature.

1. What nature has ordained comes to pass by Right, for nature in her providence is not inferior to man in his; if she were, the effect would exceed the cause in goodness,[1] which cannot be. Now we know that in instituting corporate assemblies, not only is the relation of members among themselves taken into account, but also their capacities for exercising office. This is a consideration of the limit of Right in a public body or order, seeing that Right does not extend beyond the possible. Nature, then, in her ordinances does not fail of this provision, but clearly ordains things with reference to their capacities, and this reference is the foundation of Right on which things are based by nature.[2]

1. *Conv.* 2. 5. 4: "No effect is greater than its cause; because the cause cannot give what it does not possess. Whence, seeing that the Divine Intelligence is the cause of all things, and above all of human intelligence, the human cannot exceed the Divine."

2. *Conv.* 3. 15. 4: "The natural desire of everything is regulated according to the capacity of the thing desiring; otherwise it would oppose itself, which is impossible, and nature would have made it in vain, which is also impossible." Cf. *De Mon.* 1. 3, notes 2 and 3.

From this it follows that natural order in things cannot come to pass without Right, since the foundation of Right is inseparably bound to the foundation of order.[3] The preservation of this order is therefore necessarily Right.

2. The Roman people were by nature ordained for Empire, as may be proved in this wise.[4] Just as he would fail of perfection in his art who, intent upon the form alone, had no care for the means by which to attain to form; so would nature if, intent upon the single universal form of the Divine similitude,[5] she were to neglect the means thereto. But nature, being the work of the Divine Intelligence, lacks no element of perfection; therefore she has in view all media to the ultimate realization of her intent.[6]

3. As the human race, then, has an end, and this end is a means necessary to the universal end of nature, it follows that nature must have the means in view. Wherefore the Philosopher

3. *Par.* 1. 103: "All things whatsoever have an order among themselves; and that is form, which makes the universe in the likeness of God." Cf. *De Mon.* 1. 6, and notes.

4. See *Conv.* 4. 4. 4, and 4. 5, all the chapter.

5. See *De Mon.* 1. 8.

6. *De Mon.* 1. 3, notes 2 and 3; 2. 7, note 2. Also *Par.* 8. 97 ff., and *Conv.* 4. 24. 7: "Bountiful nature . . . never fails to provide all necessary things."

well demonstrates in the second book *of Natural Learning* that the action of nature is governed by its end.[7] And as nature cannot attain through one man an end necessitating a multiplicity of actions and a multitude of men in action, nature must produce many men ordained for diverse activities.[8] To this, beside the higher influence,[9] the virtues and properties of the lower sphere contribute much. Hence we find individual men and whole nations born apt for government, and others for subjection and service, according to the statement of the Philosopher in his writings *concerning Politics;* as he says, it is not only expedient that the latter should be governed, but it is just, although they be coerced thereto.[10]

7. *Phys.* 2. 2.

8. *Par.* 8. 122: "It behooves that divers must be the roots of the effects in you; wherefore one is born Xerxes, another Melchisedec, and another he who flying through the air lost his son. . . . A nature begotten would always make its course like its begetter, if the divine foresight were not stronger."

9. *Conv.* 4. 21. 2: "The soul . . . as soon as produced, receives from the motive power of heaven its possible intellect, which creates potentially in itself all universal forms as they exist in its producer."

Purg. 30. 109: "By coöperation of the mighty wheels which direct every seed to some end according as the stars accompany."

10. *Pol.* 1. 5. 11.

4. If these things are true, there is no doubt but that nature set apart in the world a place and a people for universal sovereignty;[11] otherwise she would be deficient in herself, which is impossible.[12] What was this place, and who this people, moreover, is sufficiently obvious in what has been said above, and in what shall be added further on. They were Rome and her citizens or people. On this subject our Poet has touched very subtly in his sixth book, where he brings forward Anchises prophesying in these words to Aeneas, father of the Romans: "Verily, that others shall beat out the breathing bronze more finely, I grant you; they shall carve the living feature in the marble, plead causes with more eloquence, and trace the movements of the heavens with a rod, and name the rising stars: thine, O Roman, be the care to rule the peoples

11. *Inf.* 2. 20: "He [Aeneas] was in the empyrean heaven chosen for father of Rome our parent and of her empire, both which, if one say the truth, were established for the holy place where sits the successor of the sovereign Peter."

Conv. 4. 5. 2; 4. 5. 5: "A special origin and special growth, thought out and ordained by God, was that of the holy city. And certainly I am of the firm opinion that the stones which form her walls are worthy of reverence; and the ground on which she stands is worthy beyond all that has been preached and proved by men."

12. Note 6 above.

with authority; be thy arts these, to teach men the way of peace, to show mercy to the subject, and to overcome the proud." [13] And the disposition of place he touches upon lightly in the fourth book, when he introduces Jupiter speaking of Aeneas to Mercury in this fashion: "Not such a one did his most beautiful mother promise to us, nor for this twice rescue him from Grecian arms; rather was he to be the man to govern Italy teeming with empire and tumultuous with war." [14] Proof enough has been given that the Romans were by nature ordained for sovereignty. Therefore the Roman people, in subjecting to itself the world, attained the Empire by Right.

CHAPTER VIII

The decree of God showed that Empire belonged to the Roman people.

1. For hunting down adequately the truth of our inquiry, it is essential to know that Divine judgment in human affairs is sometimes manifest to men, and sometimes hidden. And it may be manifested in two ways, namely, by reason

13. *Aen.* 6. 847 ff.
14. *Aen.* 4. 227 ff.

and by faith.[1] To certain of the judgments of God human reason can climb on its own feet, as to this one, that a man should endanger himself for his country's safety. For if a part should endanger itself for the safety of the whole, man, being a part of the state according to the Philosopher in his *Politics*, ought to endanger himself for the sake of his fatherland, as a less good for a better.[2] Hence the Philosopher *to Nicomachus:* "To act in behalf of one alone is admirable; but it is better and more nearly divine to act in behalf of nation and state."[3] And this is the judgment of God; in any other case human reason in its rectitude would not follow the intention of nature, which is impossible.

2. But to certain of the judgments of God, to

1. Dante in various places dwells on the two means of knowledge given to man. *Conv.* 4. 9 concerns itself with the functions of reason. In *Par.* 24 St. Peter questions Dante as to the nature of faith, of its matter, and he calls it "This precious jewel whereon every virtue is founded." In one aspect the *Divine Comedy* may be interpreted as the picture of a man climbing by the help of reason and faith to a sight and knowledge of God. Reason and faith; Virgil and Beatrice; philosophy and theology. Cf. *De Mon.* 3. 16. 5.

2. *Pol.* 1. 2. 14.

3. *Eth.* 1. 2. 8: "To discover the good of an individual is satisfactory, but to discover that of a state or a nation is more noble and divine."

which human reason cannot climb on its own feet, it may be lifted by the aid of faith in those things which are related to us in the Holy Scriptures. Such is this one, that no man without faith can be saved, though he had never heard of Christ, and yet was perfect in moral and intellectual virtues, both in thought and act.[4] While human reason by itself cannot recognize this as just, aided by faith it can do so. It is written to the *Hebrews:* "Without faith it is impossible to please God."[5] And in *Leviticus:* "What man soever there be of the house of Israel that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat in the camp, or out of the camp, and bringeth it not to the door of the tabernacle, an offering unto the Lord, blood shall be imputed to that man."[6] The door of the tabernacle is a figure for Christ, who is the entrance-way to the

4. *Par.* 4. 67: "That our justice should appear unjust in the eyes of mortals is argument of faith, and pertains not to heretic pravity."

Par. 19. 70: "A man is born on the banks of the Indus, and none is there to talk of Christ, nor to read, nor to write; and all his volitions and acts are good, so far as human reason sees, without sin in life or in converse. He dies unbaptized and without fault; where is this justice which condemns him?"

5. *Heb.* 11. 6.

6. *Lev.* 17. 3, 4.

eternal mansions,[7] as can be learned from the Gospel; the slaying of animals is a figure for human deeds.[8]

3. Now that judgment of God is hidden to which human reason cannot attain either by laws of nature or scripture, but to which it may sometimes attain by special grace. This grace is gained in various ways, at times by simple revelation, at times by revelation through the medium of judicial award. Simple revelation comes to pass in two ways, either as the spontaneous act of God, or as an answer to prayer. The spontaneous act of God may be expressed directly or by a sign. It was expressed directly, for instance, in the judgment against Saul revealed to Samuel;[9] it was expressed by signs in the revelation to Pharaoh of God's will concerning the liberation of the children of Israel.[10] It came as an answer to prayer, as he knew who said in

7. *John* 10. 7, 9: "I am the door of the sheep."

8. Witte quotes from Isidore: "With a moral significance, we sacrifice a calf, when we overcome pride of the flesh; a lamb, when we correct irrational impulses; a kid, when we conquer lust; a dove, when we preserve purity of morals; unleavened bread, 'when we keep the feast, not in the leaven of malice, but in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.'"

9. *1 Sam.* 15. 10, 11.

10. *Exod.* 7. 9.

Second Chronicles: "When we know not what we ought to do, this alone we have left, to raise our eyes to thee."[11]

4. Revelation through the medium of judicial award may be first by lot, and secondly by contest (*certamen*). Indeed, "to contend" (*certare*) is derived from "to make certain" (*certum facere*). That the judgment of God is revealed sometimes by lot is obvious from the substitution of Matthias in the *Acts of the Apostles*.[12]

5. And the judgment of God is made known by contests of two sorts — either the trial of strength between champions in duels,[13] or the struggle of many to come first to a mark, as in contests run by athletes for a prize. The first of these modes was represented among the Gentiles in the strife of Hercules and Antaeus, which Lucan recalls in the fourth book of the *Pharsalia*,[14] and Ovid in the ninth of the *Metamorphoses*.[15] The second was represented

11. *2 Chron.* 20. 12 (Vulg.).

12. *Acts* 1. 23–26.

13. The word "duellum" is translated by Wicksteed as "ordeal," and by Church as "duel." To prevent misunderstanding, I have thought best to translate the word by "single combat," or "combat man to man," in almost every case.

14. Lucan, *Phar.* 4. 609 ff.

15. Ovid, *Met.* 9. 183. The *Metamorphoses* are generally

among them by Atalanta and Hippomenes, in the tenth book of the *Metamorphoses*.[16]

6. Likewise, the fact must not be disregarded that in the former of these two sorts of contests the combatants — for instance, champions in a duel — may impede each other without injustice, but in the latter they may not. Indeed, athletes must put no impediment in one another's way, although our poet seems to think otherwise in his fifth book, when he causes Euryalus to be rewarded.[17] Tully, following the opinion of Chrysippus, does better to forbid this in the third book *of Moral Duties*, where he says: "Chrysippus, wise in this as in most matters, declares that 'Whoever runs a race should endeavor with most strenuous effort to come off victor, but in no way should he trip up the one with whom he contends.'"[18]

7. From the distinction drawn in this chapter we may grant two effective modes by which the hidden decree of God is revealed: one, a contest of athletes; the other, a contest of champions. Both of these modes I will discuss in the chapter immediately following.

called by Dante as here, *de Rerum Transmutatione*. For Ovidian references in Dante see Moore, *Studies*, Vol. 1. pp. 206–228.

16. *Met.* 10. 560.

17. *Aen.* 5. 335 ff.

18. *De Off.* 3. 10. 42.

CHAPTER IX

The Romans were victorious over all contestants for Empire.

1. That people, then, which was victorious over all the contestants for Empire gained its victory by the decree of God. For as it is of deeper concern to God to adjust a universal contention than a particular one, and as even in particular contentions the decree of God is sought by the contestants, according to the familiar proverb, "To him whom God grants aught, let Peter give his blessing,"[1] therefore undoubtedly among the contestants for the Empire of the world, victory ensued from a decree of God. That among the rivals for world-Empire the Roman people came off victor will be clear if we consider the contestants and the prize or goal toward which they strove. This prize or goal was sovereign power over all mortals, or what we mean by Empire.[2] This was attained by none save by the Roman people, not only the first but the sole contestant

1. "The saying expresses the Ghibelline view of the relation of the Empire to the Pope; it may have originated with the coronation of Charles the Great." Church.

2. *De Mon.* I. 2. 1.

to reach the goal contended for, as will be at once explained.

2. The first man to pant after the prize was Ninus, king of the Assyrians, who, as Orosius records,[3] together with his consort Semiramis, through more than ninety years gave battle for world-supremacy, and subdued all Asia to himself; nevertheless, the western portion of the earth never became subject to him or his queen. Both of these Ovid commemorates in his fourth book in the story of Pyramus: "Semiramis[4] girded the city with walls of burnt brick;" and below: "They are to meet at the tomb of Ninus, and hide beneath its shadow."[5]

3. Vesoges, king of Egypt, was the second to strain after this prize, but though he harassed the South and North of Asia, as Orosius narrates, he never achieved the first part of the world.[6] Nay, between umpires[7] and goal, as it

3. Oros. *Hist.* I. 4. 1, 4.

4. *Inf.* 5. 58: "She is Semiramis, of whom we read that she succeeded to Ninus and was his wife. She held the land which the Sultan rules."

5. *Met.* 4. 58, 88.

6. Oros. *Hist.* 1. 14. 1–3.

7. "Athlothetas" were the judges or umpires in the Greek games, whose seats were opposite to the goal at the side of the stadium. See Smith's *Dict. of Antiquities*. Aristotle in

were, he was turned back from his rash undertaking by the Scythians.[8]

4. Next Cyrus, king of the Persians, undertook the same thing, but after destroying Babylon and transferring Babylonian sovereignty to the Persians, before he had tested his strength in western regions, he laid down his life and ambition at once before Tomyris, queen of the Scythians.

5. Then after these Xerxes,[9] son of Darius and king among the Persians, invaded the world with so vast and mighty a multitude of nations that he spanned with a bridge between Sestos and Abydos that passage of the sea separating Asia from Europe. This astonishing work Lucan extols thus in the second book of the *Pharsalia:* "Such roads, fame sings, did haughty Xerxes build across the seas." But at last miserably repulsed from his enterprise, he failed to reach his goal.[10]

6. Beside these and in later times, Alexan-

the *Ethics*, 1. 4. 5, says: "Plato also proposes doubt . . . whether the right way is from principles or to principles; just as in the course from the starting-post to the goal, or the contrary."

8. *De Mon.* 1. 14. 2; 2. 9. 4; 3. 3. 1.

9. *Purg.* 28. 71: "Hellespont, there where Xerxes passed, a bridle still to all pride of men."

10. *Phar.* 2. 672.

der,[11] the Macedonian king, came nearest of all to the palm of Monarchy, through ambassadors forewarning the Romans to surrender. But, as Livy recounts, before their answer came, he fell as in the midst of a course in Egypt.[12] Of his tomb there Lucan renders testimony in the eighth book, in an invective against Ptolemy, king of Egypt: "Thou last offspring of the Lagaean line, swiftly to perish in thy degeneracy and yield the sceptre to thy incestuous sister,

11. Dante puts Alexander among the tyrants and murderers in the river Phlegethon, *Inf.* 12. 107. In *Inf.* 14. 31 the flakes of fire fall "As Alexander, in those hot parts of India, saw falling upon his host flames unbroken even to the ground." In *Conv.* 4. 11. 7 Dante seems to esteem him highly, at least in one regard: "And who has not Alexander still at heart, because of his royal beneficence?"

12. This reference to Livy is an error on Dante's part, for the Roman historian nowhere recounts this story of the ambassadors or of the conqueror's death. Livy says (9. 18. 3) of Alexander and the Romans: "Quem ne fama quidem illis notum arbitror fuisse." Toynbee solved the problem of the origin of the ambassador story by tracing it to the *Chronicle* of Bishop Otto of Freising. See Toynbee, *Studies*, pp. 290 ff. Of Dante's belief concerning the place of Alexander's death Moore says: "This error probably arose from the confusion of Babylon in Assyria with Babylon (i. e. old Cairo) in Egypt. As Dante probably knew (1) that Alexander died at Babylon, and (2) that he was buried (according to Lucan) in Egypt, he might naturally have inferred that his death occurred at the Egyptian Babylon."

while for thee the Macedonian is guarded in the sacred cave." [13]

7. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God," [14] who will not pause in amazement before thee? For thou, when Alexander strove to entangle the feet of his Roman rival in the course, didst snatch him from the contest, lest his rashness wax more great.

8. But that Rome gained the palm of so magnificent a prize is confirmed by many witnessings. Our Poet says in his first book: "Verily, with the passing of the years shall one day come from hence the Romans, rulers sprung of the blood of Teucer called again to life, who shall hold the sea and land in undivided sovereignty." [15] And Lucan in his first book: "The kingdom is apportioned by the sword, and the fortune of the mighty nation that is master over sea, over land, and over all the globe, suffers not two in command." [16] And Boethius in his second book speaks thus of the Prince of the Romans: "Nay, he was ruler of

13. *Phar.* 8. 692.

14. *Rom.* 11. 33. This verse is again quoted *Conv.* 4. 21. 3.

15. *Aen.* 1. 234.

16. *Phar.* 1. 109, 111.

the peoples whom the sun looks on from the time he rises in the east until he hides his rays beneath the waves, and those whom the chilling northern wain o'errules, and those whom the southern gale burns with its dry blasts, as it beats the burning sands." [17] And Luke, the scribe of Christ, who speaketh all things true, offers the same testimony in the part of his writings which says, "There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed." [18] From these words we can clearly see that the jurisdiction of the Romans embraced the whole world.

9. It is proved by all these facts that the Romans were victorious among the contestants for world-Empire; therefore they were victorious by divine decree; and consequently they gained the Empire by divine decree, that is, they gained it with Right.

17. *De Consol. Phil.* 2, Metr. 6. 8–13 (Temple Classics trans.).

18. *Luke* 2. 1. This reference is used in the letter to King Henry, *Letter* 7. 3; *Conv.* 4. 5; *De Mon.* 2. 12. 5.

CHAPTER X

That which is acquired by single combat is acquired with Right.

1. Whatever is acquired by single combat is acquired with Right. For when human judgment fails, either because it is wrapped in the darkness of ignorance or because it has not the aid of a judge, then, lest judgment should remain forsaken, recourse must be had to Him who so loved her that, by the shedding of His own blood, He met her full demands in death. Hence the Psalm: "The righteous Lord loveth righteousness."[2] This end is accomplished when, with the free consent of the participants, in love and not in hatred of justice, the judgment of God is sought through a mutual trial of bodily and spiritual strength. Because it was first used in single combat of man to man, this trial of strength we call the duel.

2. But always in quarrels threatening to become matters of war, every effort should be made to settle the dispute through conference, and only as a last resort through battle. Tully and Vegetius both advance this opinion, the

1. *Ps.* 11. 7 (Vulg. 10. 8).

former in *Moral Duties*,[2] and the latter in his book on *The Art of War*.[3] And as in medical treatment everything is tried before final recourse is had to the knife or fire, so when we have exhausted all other ways of obtaining judgment in a dispute, we may finally turn to this remedy by single combat, compelled thereto by the necessity of justice.

3. There are obviously two fixed rules of single combat, one of which we have just now spoken, and another of which we made mention above, that not in hatred, nor in love, but in pure zeal for justice, the contestants or champions should enter the field by common consent. Touching this matter Tully well said: "Wars engaged in for the crown of Empire should be waged without bitterness."[4]

2. *De Off.* 1. 11. 34.

3. Vegetius, *De Re Militari* 3. 9. This book on the *Art of War* is a compilation from many sources, dedicated by its author, of whom nothing is known, to Emperor Valentinian II (375–392). Dante refers to it but this once. This fact, together with Moore's discovery that the context does not bear out the application of the quotation in question, has led Moore to conclude that Dante knew of Vegetius only through a mediaeval handbook or Florilegium. See Moore, *Studies*, Vol. 1. p. 297.

4. *De Off.* 1. 12. 38. Church calls attention to the fact that Cicero's word is "Imperii gloria," not "corona."

4. Provided that in single combat these rules are observed without which single combat ceases to be, and that men necessitated by justice and in zeal for justice meet by common consent, are they not met in the name of God? And if they are met in the name of God, is not God in the midst of them, as He Himself promises in the Gospel?[5] And if God is present, is it not a sin to imagine that Justice[6] can fail — Justice, which we have shown He so greatly loved? And if Justice cannot fail in single combat, is not that which is acquired by single combat acquired by Right?

5. Even before the trumpet-call of the Gospel, the Gentiles recognized this truth, and sought judgment in the fortune of single combat. Pyrrhus, noble in the virtues as well as in the blood of the Aeacidae, answered nobly the legates of the Romans sent to him for redeeming their captives: "I demand no gold, nor shall you render me a price; we are not barterers in war, but fighters; with steel, not with gold, let each decide the issue of life. Whether Hera wills that you or I shall reign, or whatever fate may bring, let us determine by prowess. And at the same time know this: to those whose valor

5. *Matt.* 18. 20.
6. *De Mon.* 1. 11.

the fortunes of war has preserved, it is my will to grant liberty. Receive them as a gift."[7] So Pyrrhus spoke, referring by "Hera" to fortune, that agency which we more wisely and rightly name Divine Providence. Let combatants, then, forbear to settle disputes for a price, for that would not be a single combat, but a game of blood and injustice; nor would God then be present as arbiter, but rather that ancient enemy who had been persuader to the quarrel. And let those who desire to be champions, and not hucksters of blood and injustice, have ever before their eyes in entering the field that Pyrrhus who in fighting for Empire, as we have said, held gold in such contempt.

6. If to contradict the truth thus manifested, the usual objection be raised concerning the inequality of men's strength, it may be refuted by the instance of David's victory over Goliath.[8] And if the Gentiles seek another instance, they may refute it by the victory of Hercules over Antaeus.[9] It is the height of folly, indeed, to

7. These lines are from Ennius, quoted *De Off.* 1. 12. 38.

8. *1 Sam.* 17. In *Letter* 7. 6 Dante addresses Henry as a second David come to overthrow a new Goliath.

9. Hercules and Antaeus, used as an example in *De Mon.* 2. 8. 5. In *Inf.* 31. 132: "The hands whence Hercules once felt a mighty constraint." The story of the combat is told in detail in *Conv.* 3. 3. 7.

fear that the strength which God confers may be weaker than that of a human antagonist.

7. By this time it is demonstrated clearly enough that whatever is acquired by single combat is acquired with Right and Justice.

CHAPTER XI

The single combats of the Roman people.

1. That the Roman people acquired Empire by single combat is confirmed by witnesses worthy of belief. In citing witnesses, not only shall we prove this, but we shall show that, from the founding of the Roman Empire, the decision of all questions whatsoever was reached through contests of man to man.

2. At the very outset, when contention arose in regard to the colonization of Italy by father Aeneas, who was first parent of the Roman people, and Turnus, king of the Rutilians, stood out against him; finally, as is sung in the last book of the *Aeneid*, both kings agreed to seek the good pleasure of God in a combat singly between themselves.[1] The closing verses of our Poet testify how great was the clemency of Aeneas, victor in the contest, and how as van-

1. *Aen.* 12. 942.

quisher he would have bestowed life and peace at one time on the vanquished, had he not espied on Turnus the belt stripped by him from Pallas slain.[2]

3. And when two peoples, the Romans and Albanians, had grown up in Italy from the same Trojan root, and when they had long striven for the ensign of the eagle, the household gods of the Trojans, and the honor of supreme command, at length with mutual consent they determined the question by a combat between the three Horatian and the three Curiatian brethren, in the view of the kings and people waiting anxiously on either side. The three champions of the Albanians and two of the Romans fell, and the victory went to the Romans, in the reign of Hostilius. And to this, which Livy narrates in detail in his first book,[3] Orosius also bears witness.[4]

4. Livy tells that they then strove for Empire with their neighbors, Sabines and Samnites, observing every rule of war, and preserving the characteristics of contests man to man, although

2. *Aen.* 12. 948. *Par.* 6. 35: "Pallas died to give a kingdom to the Roman ensign," seeing that his death was the real cause of Turnus' death.

3. Liv. 1. 24, 25.

4. Oros. 2. 4. 9.

the contestants were a multitude. During the struggle carried on in this wise with the Samnites, Fortune seemed, as it were, almost to repent of her undertaking. And this Lucan uses as an example in his second book, saying: "Or how many heaps of slain choked up the Colline Gate, what time the headship of the world and authority in earthly things were well-nigh transferred to other realms, and the Samnites overtopped the Caudine Forks with Roman dead."[5]

5. After these troubles with Italy were quieted, but the decree of God was not yet certain in regard to the Greeks and the Phoenicians aspiring to Empire, Fabricius for the Romans and Pyrrhus for the Greeks contended with a multitude of soldiery for the glory of sovereignty, and Rome was triumphant. Then Scipio[6] for the Italians and Hannibal for the Africans did

5. *Phar.* 2. 135–138: "Romanaque Samnis ultra Caudinas superavit vulnera furcas." Modern editions have "speravit" or "spiravit" instead of "superavit."

6. *Par.* 27. 61: "The Providence on high, which with Scipio guarded for Rome the glory of the world."

Par. 6. 49: "It [the ensign] brought to earth the pride of the Arabs, who in Hannibal's train passed the Alpine cliffs. . . . Under it in their youth triumphed Scipio and Pompey. . . . Afterward, hard upon the time when the heaven wholly willed to bring back the world to its tranquil order, Caesar by the will of Rome bare it."

battle in the form of single combat, and Africa succumbed to Italy, as Livy and other writers of Roman affairs endeavor to show.

6. Who is then so dull of wit he fails to see that this splendid people gained the crown of a world-wide realm by right of single combat? Verily, a Roman might say with the Apostle addressing Timothy, "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness"[7] — that is to say, laid up in the eternal providence of God. Now let presumptuous jurists behold how far they stand beneath that watch-tower of reason whence the human mind looks out upon these principles, and let them be silent, content to give counsel and judgment according to the import of the law.

7. And now the main proposition of the present book is proved, that the Roman people attained imperial power through single combat, and that therefore they attained it by Right.

8. Thus far the argument has progressed through reason based chiefly on rational principles, but from now on it shall be re-demonstrated through the principles of Christian faith.[8]

7. *2 Tim.* 4. 8.

8. *De Mon.* 2. 8. 1. For the chapter as a whole read as its best commentaries *Par.* 6 (Justinian to Dante) and *Conv.* 4. 5.

CHAPTER XII

Christ in being born proved that the authority of the Roman Empire was just.

1. And especially those who call themselves zealots for the Christian faith[1] have "raged" and "imagined vain things" against Roman dominion; they have no pity for the poor of Christ,[2] but defraud them in the church revenues, even stealing their patrimony daily, and render the Church destitute;[3] pretending to

1. Witte points out that these same men are referred to in *Purg.* 6. 91: "Ah, folk that ought to have been at prayer, and to let Caesar sit in the saddle." They are the clergy who wrongly wish a controlling hand in the world of temporal things. In this chapter Dante is again making use of the language of *Ps.* 2. 1, and calling attention once more to the opening argument of Book 2.

2. *Conv.* 4. 27. 4: "Those which do belong to your profession . . . take a tenth part and give it to God, that is, to those miserable ones to whom Divine favor alone remains."

Par. 12. 93: "Not the tithes which belong to God's poor."

Par. 22. 82: "Whatsoever the Church guards belongs all to the folk who ask in God's name." Cf. *De Mon.* 3. 10. 6.

3. Cupidity in the Church, as in men's minds (*De Mon.* 1. 11. 5), was the source and root of evil. *Inf.* 1. 49 uses as the figure of Avarice, or the Church grasping for temporal

Justice, they yet permit no executor of Justice to do his duty.

2. Nor is this impoverishment accomplished without the judgment of God, for the church revenues are neither given to relieve the poor whose patrimony they are, nor are held with gratitude to the Empire which bestowed them. Let them return whence they came. They came justly, they return unjustly, for though they were rightly given, they are wrongfully held.[4] What should be said of such shepherds? What, if with the depletion of the Church's substance the estates of relatives wax great?[5] Belike it were better to follow out the argument and await our Saviour's aid in pious silence.

3. I affirm, therefore, that if the Roman Empire did not come to be with Right, Christ in His birth authorized an injustice. This conse-

domain, a "she-wolf, that with all ravenings looked fraught in its leanness, and has already made much people wretched."

4. The donation of Constantine is meant. See *De Mon.* 3. 10. *Par.* 20. 56, the eagle speaks of Constantine's gift as "a good intention which bare ill fruit."

5. This was more true of Boniface VIII than of any other Pope, for he furthered the interests of his family and friends by all means in his power. Milman says of him in his *Latin Christianity*, Bk. 11, ch. 7: "Of all the Roman Pontiffs, Boniface left the darkest name for craft, arrogance, ambition, even for avarice and cruelty."

quent is false; therefore the contradictory of the antecedent is true, since contradictory propositions are of such a nature that the falseness of a statement argues for the truth of its opposite.[6]

4. The falsity of this consequent need not be proved to those of the faith; for he who is of the faith will concede its falsity; if he does not do so, he is not of the faith; and if he is not of the faith, this argument concerns him not.

5. I demonstrate the consequent[7] thus: Whoever of his own free will fulfills an edict urges its justice by so doing; and since deeds are more persuasive than words, as the Philosopher states in his last book *to Nicomachus*, he is more convincing

6. *Par.* 6. 21: "All contradictories are both false and true." That is, one is false and the other true, for contradictories are pairs of propositions so related to each other that both cannot be false. Wicksteed further explains that "They are of the form either of 'All A is B' and 'Some A is not B,' or 'No A is B' and 'Some A is B.' These four terms were usually arranged at the corners of a square in the logic books.

All A is B	No A is B
Some A is B	Some A is not B.

The contradictories are at opposite ends of the diameters, the source of the phrase 'diametrically opposed.'"

7. That is, "Christ in his birth authorized an injustice."

than if his approbation were verbal.[8] Now Christ willed to be born of a Virgin Mother under an edict of Roman authority, according to the testimony of Luke,[9] his scribe, in order that the Son of Man, made man, might be numbered as a man in that unique census. This fulfilled the edict. It were perhaps more reverent to believe that the Divine Will caused the edict to go forth through Caesar, in order that God might number Himself among the society of mortals who had so many ages awaited His coming.[10]

6. So Christ in His action established as just the edict of Augustus, exerciser of Roman authority. Since to decree justly presupposes jurisdictional power, whoever confirms the justice of an edict confirms also the jurisdictional power

8. *Eth.* 10. 1. 3. Cf. *De Mon.* 1. 13. 1. So also Thomas Aquinas says, "Concerning human actions and passions words are to be trusted less than deeds."

9. *Luke* 2. 1.

10. *Purg.* 10. 34: "The angel that came on earth with the decree of the many years wept-for peace . . . opened heaven from its long interdict."

Par. 26 contains the computation of time from the fall to the redemption. Cf. l. 118: "From that place whence thy Lady moved Virgil, for four thousand three hundred and two revolutions of the sun did I long for this assembly, and I saw him return to all the stars of his road nine hundred and thirty times whiles that I was upon earth." According to this, Adam makes the number of years 5232 from creation to crucifixion.

whence it issued. Did this power not exist by Right, it would be unjust.

7. And observe that the argument employed to disprove the consequent, though it holds to a certain degree, nevertheless, if reduced,[11] shows its force in the second figure,[12] just as the argument based on the assumption of the antecedent shows its force in the first figure. The reduction is made as follows: Every unjust thing is established unjustly; Christ established nothing unjustly; therefore Christ established no unjust thing. And thus by the assumption of the antecedent: Every unjust thing is established unjustly; Christ established an unjust thing; therefore Christ established things unjustly.

CHAPTER XIII

Christ in dying confirmed the jurisdiction of the Roman Empire over all humanity.

1. And if the Roman Empire did not exist by Right, the sin of Adam was not punished in Christ. This, however, is false; so the contradictory from which it follows is true. The falsity of the consequent is apparent in this. By

11. That is, to a syllogism.

12. The second figure has the middle term for predicate in both premises.

the sin of Adam we are all sinners, according to the Apostle: "As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."[1] If satisfaction had not been given for this sin through the death of Christ, we, owing to our depraved nature, should still be children of wrath. But this is not so, for the Apostle speaks in *Ephesians* of the Father "having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ

1. *Rom.* 5. 12. In *De Mon.* 1. 16 Dante dates "all our errors" from the fall of Adam. In *Par.* 7 Beatrice explains to Dante the nature of human redemption. Cf. l. 85: "Your nature, when it all sinned in its seed, was removed from these dignities as from Paradise; nor could it recover them, . . . by any way without passing through some one of these roads; either that God alone of his clemency should have put away, or that man should have made satisfaction for his folly."

Purg. 32. 37. Here in the vision of the Church and the Empire Dante symbolizes the fall and redemption of man, the errors of avarice in the Church, and the universal jurisdiction of Monarchy. "I heard all murmur 'Adam,' then they circled a plant despoiled of flowers and of leafage too on every branch. Its foliage, which spreads the wider as it is the higher up, would be wondered at for height by the Indians in their forests. 'Blessed art thou, Grifon, that thou tearest not with thy beak of this wood sweet to the taste, since ill was the belly griped therefrom.'" As Plumptre remarks, the apostrophe to the grifon is the thought developed in the second book of *De Mon.*

to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved, in whom we have redemption by His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace, wherein He has abounded toward us."[2] And Christ Himself, suffering in Himself the punishment, says in *John*, "It is finished."[3] And when a thing is finished, nothing remains to be done.

2. For greater clearness, let it be understood that punishment is not simply penalty visited upon the doer of wrong, but penalty visited upon the doer of wrong by one having penal jurisdiction. Wherefore unless punishment is inflicted by a lawful judge, it is no punishment; rather must it be called a wrong. Hence the man of the Hebrews said to Moses, "Who made thee a judge over us?"[4]

3. If therefore Christ did not suffer under a lawful judge,[5] his penalty was not punishment. Lawful judge meant in that case one having jurisdiction over the entire human race, since all humanity was punished in the flesh of Christ,

2. *Eph.* 1. 5–8.

3. The work of redeeming the human race is finished. *John* 19. 30.

4. *Exod.* 2. 14.

5. "Sub ordine judice."

who, as the Prophet says, "hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows."[6] And Tiberius Caesar, whose vicar was Pilate, would not have possessed jurisdiction over the entire human race had not the Roman Empire existed by Right. Herod, albeit as ignorant of what he did as Caiaphas[7] of what truth he spake concerning the heavenly decree, for this reason sent Christ to be judged by Pilate, as Luke[8] writes in his Gospel. For Herod was not an official of Tiberius under the ensign of the eagle or the Senate, but a king appointed by him to a particular kingdom, and governing it under the ensign of the kingdom committed to him.[9]

4. Wherefore let those who pretend they are sons of the Church cease to defame the Roman Empire, to which Christ the Bridegroom gave His sanction both at the beginning and at the close of His warfare. And now, I believe, it is sufficiently obvious that the Roman people appropriated the Empire of the world by Right.

6. *Is.* 53. 4. Quoted *Letter 6.* 6.

7. *John* 18. 14: "Now Caiaphas was he which gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people."

8. *Luke* 23. 11.

9. Pilate was the real Roman regent. Cf. *Par.* 6. 86, where Tiberius is called "the third Caesar," and read all the canto for Justinian's account of the Roman Empire.

5. O people, how blessed hadst thou been, O Ausonia how glorious, had he who enfeebled thy sovereignty never been born, or never been deceived by the piety of his purpose! [10]

10. That Constantine's purpose was high Dante always insisted on. See *De Mon.* 2. 12. 1; and 3. 10 and notes. *Par.* 20. 58: "Now knows he how the ill, deduced from his good work, is not harmful to him, albeit that the world be thereby destroyed."

BOOK III

WHETHER THE AUTHORITY OF THE ROMAN MONARCH DERIVES FROM GOD IMMEDIATELY OR FROM SOME VICAR OF GOD

CHAPTER I

Introduction.

1. "He has shut the lions' mouths and they have not hurt me; inasmuch as before Him righteousness was found in me."[1] In beginning this work I proposed to investigate three questions as far as the subject-matter would allow. For the first two questions this has been done satisfactorily in the foregoing books, I believe. We must now consider the third, the truth of which may, however, be a cause of indignation against me, since it cannot be brought forth without causing certain men to blush. But since Truth[2] from her immutable throne demands it; and Solomon entering his forest of *Proverbs*, and marking out his own conduct, entreats that we "meditate upon truth and abhor wickedness;"[3] and our teacher of morals, the Philo-

1. *Dan.* 6. 22. The word "righteousness" is the Latin "justitia," which in chapters 11, 12, etc., of Book 1 was translated "justice."

2. Note that it was love of truth that started Dante on his task in *De Mon.* 1. 1.

3. *Prov.* 8. 7. Dante's idea here expressed does not ex-

sopher, admonishes us to sacrifice whatever is most precious for truth's sake:[4] therefore, gaining assurance from the words of Daniel, wherein the power of God is shown as a shield for defenders of truth, and "putting on the breastplate of faith" according to the admonition of Paul,[5] in the warmth of that coal taken from the heavenly altar by one of the Seraphim and touched to the lips of Isaiah,[6] I will engage in the present conflict, and by the arm of Him who with His blood liberated us from the power of darkness,[7] I will cast the ungodly and the liar from the arena, while the world looks on. Wherefore should I fear, when the Spirit, coeternal with the Father and the Son, says by the mouth of David, "The righteous shall be in

actly coincide with that in the verse cited, which runs: "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips."

4. *Eth.* 1. 6. 1: "For the preservation of truth . . . we should even do away with private feelings, especially as we are philosophers; for both being dear to us, it is a sacred duty to prefer truth."

In *Letter 9. 5, to the Italian Cardinals,* Dante says again: "I have the authority of the Master Philosopher, who, in treating of all morality, taught that truth is to be preferred beyond any friend whatsoever."

5. *1 Thess.* 5. 8.

6. *Is.* 6. 6, 7.

7. *Col.* 1. 13, 14.

everlasting remembrance, he shall not be afraid of evil tidings"?[8]

2. The question pending investigation, then, concerns two great luminaries,[9] the Roman Pontiff and the Roman Prince: and the point at issue is whether the authority of the Roman Monarch, who, as proved in the second book, is rightful Monarch of the world, derives from God directly, or from some vicar or minister of God, by whom I mean the successor of Peter, veritable keeper of the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

CHAPTER II

God wills not that which is counter to the intention of nature.

1. As in the previous questions, so in the present one, we must assume some principle for informing the arguments which are to reveal the truth. For of what avail is it to labor even in speaking truth, if one have no basic principle?[1]

8. *Ps.* 112. 6, 7. Much the same idea is in *Par.* 17. 118: "If I am a timid friend to the truth, I fear to lose life among those who will call this time ancient."

9. *De Mon.* 3. 4 takes up in detail the argument of the sun and moon.

1. *De Mon.* 1. 2. 2; 2. 2. 1.

And the principle is the sole root of the assumptions,[2] which are the mediums of proof.

2. Let us set up, then, this indisputable truth, that whatever is repugnant to the intention of nature is contrary to the will of God. If this were not true, its contrary would not be false, that whatever is repugnant to the intention of nature is not contrary to the will of God. And if this is not false, its consequences are not false. For in necessary consequences a false consequent is impossible without a false antecedent.[3]

3. But "not contrary to the will of" means one of two things, "to will" or "not to will;" just as "not to hate" means either "to love" or "not to love;" for "not to love" does not mean "to hate," neither does "not to will" mean "to be contrary to the will of," as is self-evident. If these statements are not false, neither will it be false to assert that "God wills what He does not will," than which no greater fallacy exists.

4. I demonstrate as follows the verity of what has been said. That God wills an end for nature is manifest; otherwise the heavens would move to no purpose, which it is not possible to claim.[4] If God should will an obstruction

2. "Assumptions" are the major and minor premises.

3. *Anal. Pr.* 2. 2.

4. Dante proves this point *De Mon.* 1. 3. 2; 1. 10. 1; 2. 7.

to this end, He would also will an end for the obstruction, or He would will to no purpose. Now the end of an obstruction is that the thing obstructed may exist no longer, so it follows that God wills the end of nature to exist no longer, when we have already said that He wills it to exist.

5. But if God did not will the obstruction to the end, it would follow from His not willing it that He cared nothing for the obstruction, whether it existed or not. Now he who cares nothing for the obstruction cares nothing for the end obstructed, and therefore has it not in his will, and what he has not in his will, he does not will. Hence if the end of nature can be impeded, and it can, it necessarily follows that God does not will an end of nature, and follows further, as before, that God wills what He does not will. That principle is therefore most true from the contradictory of which results such an absurdity.[5]

2, 3; and 3. 15. 1. See also the quotations in the notes to these paragraphs. Dante expresses the idea most clearly, perhaps, in *Par.* 1. 109: "In that order which I say have all natures their propension, through divers lots, more or less near to their origin; whereby they move to divers ports through the sea of being, and each with instinct given to it to bear it."

5. Miss Hillard notes the use of proof by reduction to absurdity, *Conv.* 2. 9. 4.

CHAPTER III

Of the three classes of our opponents and the too great authority many ascribe to tradition.

1. In entering on this third question,[1] let us bear in mind that the truth of the first[2] was made manifest in order to abolish ignorance rather than contention. But the investigation of the second[3] had reference alike to ignorance and contention. Indeed, we are ignorant of many things concerning which we do not contend: the geometrician does not know the square of the circle,[4] but he does not contend

1. "Whether the authority of the Roman Monarchy derives from God immediately, or from some vicar of God."

2. "Whether temporal Monarchy is necessary for the well-being of the world."

3. "Whether the Roman people rightfully appropriated the office of Monarchy."

4. *Conv.* 2. 14. 12: "The circle by reason of its arc cannot be exactly squared."

Par. 33. 133: "As is the geometer who applies himself wholly in order to measure the circle, and finds not by thinking that principle whereof he is in want, such was I."

In 1761 Lambert proved that the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter was incommensurable. Lindemann has since demonstrated that this ratio was transcendental, and that the quadrature of the circle by means of the rule and compass only is impossible.

about it; the theologian does not know the number of the angels,[5] but he renders it no cause for quarrel; the Egyptian knows naught of the civilization of Scythia, but does not therefore make the civilization a source of strife.[6]

2. Now the truth of the third question has to do with so keen a contention that, whereas ignorance generally causes the discord, here the discord causes ignorance. For it always happens to men who will things before rationally considering them that, their desire being evil, they put behind them the light of reason; as blind men they are led about by their desire, and stubbornly deny their blindness.[7] Whence

5. The number of the angels Dante discusses in *Conv.* 2. 6, concluding in chapter 2. 6. 2: "It is proved to us that these creatures exist in immense numbers; because His Spouse and Secretary, the Holy Church . . . says, believes, and preaches that these most noble creatures are almost innumerable; and she divides them into three hierarchies."

6. *Eth.* 3. 3. 6: "About things eternal no man deliberates, as about the world, or the diagonal and the side of a square, that they are incommensurable, . . . nor about things accidental, as the finding of a treasure, nor yet about everything human, as no Lacedaemonian deliberates how the Scythians might be best governed." Moore thinks that Dante's substitution of "Egyptian" for "Lacedaemonian" was merely a slip of memory.

7. *Purg.* 18. 16: "Direct toward me the keen eyes of thy understanding, and the error will be manifest to thee of the

it often occurs not only that falsehood has her own patrimony, but that many men going out from her boundaries run through strange camps, where, neither understanding nor being understood at all, they provoke some to wrath, some to disdain, and not a few to laughter.

3. Three classes of men struggle hardest against the truth which we would establish.

4. First the Chief Pontiff, Vicar of our Lord Jesus Christ and successor to Peter, he to whom we should render not what is due to Christ but what is due to Peter, he, perchance in his zeal for the keys, together with some pastors of Christian flocks, and others moved solely, I believe, by their zeal for Mother Church, contradict the truth I am about to declare. They contradict it, perchance, from zeal, I repeat, not from pride.[8]

blind who make themselves leaders." So wickedness to Dante was largely a matter of ignorance, of blindness, of inability to understand. With sight and comprehension of good came right action.

8. Dante even in his moments of greatest indignation had only reverence for the papal office. *Inf.* 19. 100: "Were it not that still forbids it to me my reverence for the supreme keys which thou heldest in the glad life, I would use words yet more grievous;" so he says to Pope Nicolas placed among the simoniacs in Malebolge. And of the persecution of Boniface VIII, whom Dante hated above all men, he writes *Purg.*

5. But others in their inveterate cupidity have quenched the light of reason, and call themselves sons of the Church, although they are of their father the devil.[9] Not only do they

20. 86: "I see the fleur-de-lys enter into Alagna, and in his Vicar Christ himself made captive. I see Him being mocked a second time, I see the vinegar and the gall renewed, and Him between live thieves put to death. I see the new Pilate so cruel that that sates him not, but without decree he bears into the temple his greedy sails."

9. *John* 8. 44: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." For cupidity as the greatest of human sins, see *De Mon.* 2. 12. 1; 1. 11. 5, and note 12. The worst form of cupidity was simony, trafficking in spiritual matters, shown forth in *Inf.* 19. 1 ff.: "O Simon Magus! O unhappy followers! because the things of God, which ought to be spouses, and ye in your greed make to commit whoredom for gold and for silver — now it is meet that for you the trumpet sound, seeing that in the third pit ye are stationed."

Letter 9. 7 *To the Italian Cardinals:* "Every one has taken Cupidity to wife, even as ye have, — Cupidity, who is never, like Charity, the mother of Piety and Equity, but always of Impiety and Iniquity. Ah, most holy Mother, Bride of Christ, what sons dost thou bear of water and of the spirit to shame thee! Neither Charity nor Justice, but the daughters of the horse-leech have become thy daughters-in-law, and all save the Bishop of Luni attest what kind of sons they have brought to thee. Thy Gregory lies among the cobwebs; Ambrose lies on the neglected shelves of the clergy; Augustine lies forgotten; Dionysius, Damascenus, and Bede have been thrown aside; and I know not what *Speculum*, Innocent, and he of Ostia

arouse controversy in regard to this question, but, despising the very name of the most sacred Princehood, impudently deny the first principles of this and the previous questions.

6. The third class, called Decretalists,[10] utterly ignorant and unregardful of Theology and Philosophy, depending entirely on the *Decretals* (which, I grant, are deserving of veneration), and I presume trusting in the ultimate supremacy of these, derogate from the imperial power. Nor is it to be wondered at, for I have heard one of them aver and insolently maintain that ecclesiastical traditions are the foundation of

preach. Wherefore is this? They sought God as their end and best good; these run after riches and benefices."

10. Two of these men are named *Par.* 12. 83, Henry of Susa, Archbishop of Embrun and Cardinal of Ostia, and Thaddeus of Bologna. In *Letter* 9. 7, quoted in the note preceding, the *Speculum* of Guglielmo Durante, Innocent III, and the Cardinal of Ostia make another list.

The *Decretals* were those papal decrees which form the groundwork of the ecclesiastical law. The most important compilation was issued by Gregory IX in 1234. The Code of the Papal Decretals was promulgated as the statute law of Christendom, the authority of which was superior to all secular law. See Toynbee, *Dict.* s. v. Decretali; Hallam, *Middle Ages*, Ch. 8, part 2.

Par. 9. 133: "For this the Gospel and the great Doctors are deserted, and study is given to the Decretals alone, as appears on their margins."

faith. Let those dispel this error of thought from mortal minds whom the world doubts not to have believed in Christ, the Son of God, ere ecclesiastical traditions were, believed in Him either to come, or present, or having already suffered,[11] and believing hoped, and hoping burned with love, and burning with love were made co-heirs with Him.[12]

7. And that such mistaken thinkers may be wholly shut out from the present discussion, it must be observed that some of the Scriptures take precedence of the Church, some are equivalent to the Church, and some subordinate to it.

8. Those taking precedence of the Church are the Old and New Testaments, which, as the Prophet says, "were commanded for ever,"[13] and to which the Church refers in saying to the Bridegroom, "Draw me after thee."[14]

9. Equivalent to the Church are those Coun-

11. *Par.* 20. 103: "They issued not from their bodies as thou deemest Gentiles, but Christians, in firm faith, he of the Feet that should suffer, he of them having suffered."

12. *Rom.* 8. 16, 17.

13. *Ps.* 111. 9. This is a rather strained interpretation of "He hath sent redemption unto his people; he hath commanded his covenant for ever."

14. Cant. 1. 4. Dante, as was customary in his times, interprets the Canticles allegorically as applying to the Church.

cils so worthy of reverence, and in the midst of which no believer doubts the presence of Christ; for we have, according to Matthew's testimony, the words spoken to His disciples at His ascension into heaven: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."[15] In addition, there are the writings of the Doctors, Augustine,[16] and others, and whosoever doubts the aid of the Holy Spirit therein has never seen their fruits, or if he has seen, has never tasted them.

10. Subordinate to the Church are the traditions called Decretals, which, while they must be revered for their apostolic authority, must nevertheless be held unquestionably inferior to the fundamental Scriptures, seeing that Christ rebuked the priests for not so doing. When they had inquired, "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders?"[17] (for they

15. *Matt.* 28. 20.

16. St. Augustine (354–430). Dante quotes in the next chapter from two of his works, *De Civitate Dei* and *De Doctrina Christiana*. The ideals of Augustine in the former treatise and those of Dante in the *De Mon.* are very similar. For his relation to Dante see Moore, *Studies*, Vol. 1. pp. 291–294. Augustine is honored with a seat in the Celestial Rose by St. Francis and St. Benedict *Par.* 32. 35. For further mention of him see note 9, above.

17. *Matt.* 15. 2, 3.

had omitted the washing of hands) Christ answered, as Matthew testifies, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" Here the inferiority of tradition is clearly implied.

11. If, as we believe, traditions of the Church are subordinate to the Church, authority necessarily accrues not to the Church through traditions, but to traditions through the Church. And I repeat, those who have faith in traditions alone are excluded from this discussion. For they who would hunt down this truth must start in their search from those writings whence the authority of the Church emanates.

12. Others must likewise be excluded who, decked in the plumage of ravens, boast themselves white sheep of the Master's flock. In order to carry out their crimes, these sons of impiety defile their mother, banish their brethren, and scorn judgments brought against them. Why should reason be sought in behalf of these whose passions prevent them from understanding our basic principle?[18]

13. There remains, then, the controversy with

18. *Phys.* 1. 2. "Cupiditas" is the word I have this time translated "passions." Cf. *Purg.* 19. 121: "As avarice extinguished our love toward every good, whence labor was lost, so justice here holds us straitly bound." See also note 9, above.

those only who, led by a certain zeal for their Mother the Church, are blind to the truth we are seeking. And with them, confident in that reverence which a loyal and loving son owes to father and mother, to Christ and the Church, to the Shepherd and all who profess the Christian religion, I enter in this book into combat for the preservation of truth.

CHAPTER IV

The opponents' argument adduced from the sun and moon.

1. Those men to whom the entire subsequent discussion is directed assert that the authority of the Empire depends on the authority of the Church, just as the inferior artisan depends on the architect.[1] They are drawn to this by divers opposing arguments, some of which they take from Holy Scripture, and some from certain

1. *Metaphys.* I. 1: "We reckon the chief artificers in each case to be entitled to more dignity, and to the reputation of superior knowledge, and to be more wise than the handicraftsmen, because the former are acquainted with the causes of things that are being constructed, whereas the latter produce things as certain inanimate things do, . . . unconsciously." Bryce dates the successful claim of the papacy to rule in temporal matters to Gregory VII (1073–1086).

acts performed by the Chief Pontiff, and by the Emperor himself; and they endeavor to make their conviction reasonable.

2. For, first, they maintain that according to *Genesis* God made two mighty luminaries, a greater and a less, the former to hold supremacy by day and the latter by night.[2] These they interpret allegorically to be the two rulers[3] — spiritual and temporal. Whence they argue that as the lesser luminary, the moon, has no light but that gained from the sun, so the temporal

2. *Gen.* 1. 15, 16.

3. "Dua regimina" — two guiding or governing powers. Bryce, *Holy Roman Empire*, c. 15: "The analogy between the lights of heaven and the potentates of earth is one which mediaeval writers are very fond of. It seems to have originated with Gregory VII" (1073–1086).

"Two lights, the sun and the moon, illumine the globe; two powers, the papal and the royal, govern it; but as the moon receives her light from the more brilliant star, so kings reign by the chief of the Church who comes from God," are the words of Innocent IV (1243–1254).

Bryce speaks in the chapter cited above of a curious seal of the Emperor Otto IV (1208–1212), figured in J. M. Heineccius' *De veteribus Germanorum atque aliarum nationum sigillis*, on which the sun and moon are represented over the head of the Emperor: "There seems to be no reason why we should not take the device as typifying the accord of the spiritual and temporal powers which was brought about at the accession of Otto, the Guelfic leader, and the favored candidate of Pope Innocent III."

ruler has no authority but that gained from the spiritual ruler.[4]

3. Let it be noted for the refutation of this and their other arguments that, as the Philosopher holds in his writings *on Sophistry*, "the destruction of an argument is the exposure of error."[5] And because error can occur in both the matter and the form of an argument, a twofold fallacy is possible — that arising from a false assumption, and that from a failure to syllogize. The two objections brought by the Philosopher

4. Dante's real view, that the spiritual and temporal rulers are coördinate but different, is expressed *De Mon.* 3. 16. 6. Again in *Purg.* 16. 106 is the idea in more figurative language: "Rome, that made the good world, was wont to have two suns, that showed the one and the other road, both of the world and of God. The one has put out the other, and the sword is joined with the crook; and the one and the other together of very necessity it behoves that they go ill."

Letter 6. 2 (To the Florentines) has the following figure: "Why, then, such a foolish supposition being disposed of, do ye, deserting legitimate government, seek new Babylonians to found new kingdoms, in order that the Florentine may be one policy and the Roman another? Why may it not please you to envy the apostolic monarchy likewise? that if Delia is to have a twin in heaven, the Delian One may also?"

After the death of Henry VII and Clement V Dante wrote in *Letter 9.* 10: "Rome, that city now deprived of both its luminaries."

5. *Soph. Elenc.* 18.

against Parmenides and Melissus were: "They accept what is false, and syllogize incorrectly."[6] "False" I use here with large significance, embracing the improbable, which in matters of probability becomes the false element. He who would destroy a conclusion where there is error in the form of the argument must show a failure to comply with the rules of syllogizing. Where the error is material, he must show that an assumption has been made, either false in itself, or false in relation to something else. Absolute falsity may be destroyed by destroying the assumption, relative falsity by distinction of meanings.[7]

4. Granting this, let us observe, in order to comprehend more clearly the fallacy of this and other arguments, that with regard to mystical interpretation a twofold error may arise, either

6. *Phys.* 1. 3. Parmenides was a Greek philosopher, born at Elea in Italy circ. 513 B. C., founder of the Eleatic School of philosophy, in which he was succeeded by Zeno. Melissus of Samos was one of his followers. These two false reasoners serve for illustration again in *Par.* 13. 122: "He returns not the same as he sets out, who fishes for the truth and has not the art; and of this are to the world open proofs Parmenides, Melissus, and Bryson."

7. "Distinction" marks out two possible meanings in a proposition; one, the sense in which it must be understood to make it true; the other, the sense in which it must be understood in order to support a given conclusion.

by seeking one where it is not, or by explaining it other than it ought to be.

5. Of the first error Augustine says in *The City of God:* "Not all deeds recounted should be thought to have special significance, because for the sake of significant things insignificant details are interwoven. The plowshare by itself cuts the land into furrows, but that this may be accomplished the other parts of the plow are needed." [8]

6. Of the second error he speaks in his *Christian Doctrine*, saying that the man who attempts to find in the Scriptures other things than the writer's meaning "is deceived as one who abandons a certain road, only by a long detour to reach the goal whither the road led directly." [9] And he adds, "Such a man should be shown that a habit of leaving his path may lead him into cross-roads and tortuous ways." Then he gives the reason why this error should be avoided in the Scriptures, saying, "Shake the authority of the divine writings, and you shake all faith." [10] However, I believe that when such

8. *De Civit. Dei* 16. 2.

9. *De Doctr. Christ.* 1. 36. Here Dante departs from our present reading of Augustine's text by using the words "per gyrum" instead of "per agrum."

10. *L. c.* 37.

errors are due to ignorance they should be pardoned after correction has been carefully administered, just as he should be pardoned who is terrified at a supposed lion in the clouds. But when such errors are due to design, the erring one should be treated like tyrants who never apply public laws for the general welfare, but endeavor to turn them to individual profit.

7. O unparalleled crime, though committed but in dreams, of turning into evil the intention of the Eternal Spirit! Such a sin would not be against Moses, or David, or Job, or Matthew, or Paul, but against the Holy Spirit that speaketh in them. For although the writers of the divine word are many, the dictator of the word is one, even God, who has deigned to make known his purpose to us through divers pens.

8. From these prefatory remarks I proceed to refute the above assumption that the two luminaries of the world typify its two ruling powers. The whole force of their argument lies in the interpretation; but this we can prove indefensible in two ways. First, since these ruling powers are as it were accidents necessitated by man himself, God would seem to have used a distorted order in creating first accidents, and then the subject necessitating them.

It is absurd to speak thus of God, but it is evident from the Word [11] that the two lights were created on the fourth day, and man on the sixth.

9. Secondly, the two ruling powers exist as the directors of men toward certain ends, as will be shown further on; but had man remained in the state of innocence in which God made him, he would have required no such direction. These ruling powers are therefore remedies against the infirmity of sin. Since on the fourth day man not only was not a sinner, but was not even existent, the creation of a remedy would have been purposeless, which is contrary to divine goodness. Foolish indeed would be the physician who should make ready a plaster for the future abscess of a man not yet born. Therefore it cannot be asserted that God made the two ruling powers on the fourth day; and consequently the meaning of Moses cannot have been what it is supposed to be.[12]

11. "Litera," Witte says, was a solemn word used for "text," especially in referring to sacred writings, during the Middle Ages.

12. "Man restored to the state of Eden would not need ecclesiastical any more than he would need imperial guidance or authority. Hence Virgil 'crowns and mitres' Dante at the entrance of the Garden of Eden, *Purg.* 27, 42. It follows that Beatrice, whose ministrations begin here, may be

10. Also, in order to be tolerant, we may refute this fallacy by distinction. Refutation by distinction deals more gently with an adversary, for it shows him to be not absolutely wrong, as does refutation by destruction. I say, then, that although the moon may have abundant light only as she receives it from the sun, it does not follow on that account that the moon herself owes her existence to the sun. It must be recognized that the essence of the moon, her strength, and her function are not one and the same thing. Neither in her essence, her strength, nor her function taken absolutely, does the moon owe her existence to the sun, for her movement is impelled by her own motor and her influence by her own rays.[13] Besides, she has a certain light of her own, as is shown in eclipse. It is in order to fulfill her function better and more potently that she borrows from the sun abun-

Revelation, but cannot be Ecclesiastical Authority." Wicksteed.

13. The heaven of the moon was the first of the ten Dantean heavens. It is described *Conv.* 2. 3–7, and *Par.* 2–5. Nine of these were the so-called moving heavens, each having for its motor a certain order of spiritual creature. *Conv.* 2. 6. 5: "Wherefore it is reasonable to believe that the motive powers of the Heaven of the Moon are of the order of Angels."

Conv. 2. 6. 7: "These motive powers guide by their thought alone the revolutions over which each one presides."

dance of light, and works thereby more efficaciously.

11. In like manner, I say, the temporal power receives from the spiritual neither its existence, nor its strength, which is its authority, nor even its function taken absolutely. But well for her does she receive therefrom, through the light of grace which the benediction of the Chief Pontiff sheds upon it in heaven and on earth, strength to fulfill her function more perfectly.[14] So the argument was at fault in form, because the predicate of the conclusion is not a term of the major premise, as is evident. The syllogism runs thus: The moon receives light from the sun, which is the spiritual power; the temporal ruling power is the moon; therefore the temporal receives authority from the spiritual. They introduce "light" as the term of the major, but "authority" as predicate of the conclusion, which two things we have seen to be diverse in subject and significance.

14. *De Mon.* 3. 16. 9, and note.

The apostolic benediction even of Clement V, whom Dante punishes among the simoniacs in *Inf.* 19, is thus spoken of, *Letter 5.* 10: "This is he whom Peter, the vicar of God, admonishes us to honor; whom Clement, now the successor of Peter, illuminates with the light of the apostolic benediction, in order that where the spiritual ray does not suffice, the splendor of the lesser light may illumine."

CHAPTER V

Argument from the precedence of Levi over Judah.

1. They also abstract an argument from the word of Moses, declaring that in Levi and Judah sprang from Jacob's loins the types of these two sovereignties, the one being father of the priesthood, and the other father of temporal rulers.[1] From this they argue: The relation of Levi to Judah is that of the Church to the Empire; Levi preceded Judah in birth according to Scripture; therefore the Church precedes the Empire in authority.

2. Refutation is here easy, for I might as before overthrow by positive denial the assertion that Levi and Judah, the sons of Jacob, typified these sovereignties; but I will concede that point. When, however, they proceed to infer from their argument that as Levi had prece-

1. *Gen.* 29. 34, 35. Reference is made to the sons of Levi as men of churchly and not secular authority *Purg.* 16. 127. Marco Lombardo is speaking to Dante: "Say from this day forth that the Church of Rome, through confounding of herself two governments, falls in the mire, and befouls herself and her burden." "O my Marco," said I, "thou reasonest well; and now I perceive why the sons of Levi were exempted from the heritage."

dence in birth, so has the Church in authority, I repeat that the predicate of the conclusion is not the term of the major premise, for the one is "authority" and the other "birth," things different in subject and meaning. There is an error, therefore, in the form of the syllogism, which is as follows: A precedes B in C; D is related to E as A is to B; therefore D precedes E in F. But F and C are dissimilar.

3. If they become insistent, saying that F follows from C (that is, "authority" from "birth"), and that in an inference a consequent may replace an antecedent (as "animal" might replace "man"), I answer that it is untrue. Many are older in years who have no precedence in authority, but are superseded by their juniors; for instance, when bishops are younger than their arch-presbyters. And so the insistence is misplaced, for they have named as cause that which is none.

CHAPTER VI

Argument from the election and deposition of Saul by Samuel.

1. Moreover, they take from the first book of *Kings* the election and deposition of Saul,

and declare that, according to the text, Saul, an enthroned king, was dethroned by Samuel executing God's command as His Vicar.[1] And they reason from this that as the Vicar of God then had authority to give temporal power, to take it away, and to transfer it to another, so now God's Vicar, High Priest of the Church Universal, has like authority to bestow, to withdraw,[2] and even to consign to another the sceptre of temporal dominion. From this would follow undoubtedly, as they claim, that the Empire is a derived power.

2. But to destroy the premise that Samuel was Vicar of God, we need only reply that he was not Vicar; he acted merely as a special envoy for this commission, or as a messenger bringing an express command from his Lord. This is evident from the fact that what God bade him, that alone he did and that alone recounted.

3. Wherefore let it be understood that it is one thing to be a vicar, and another to be a messenger or minister; as it is one thing to

1. *I Sam.* 10. 1, Samuel anoints Saul; 15. 23, he deposes him; 15. 28, he transfers the authority of ruler "to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou."

2. *Decretals of Gregory*, 2. 13. 2: "The Pope has power to depose the Emperor for legitimate causes." Boniface VIII not only deposed Philip the Fair, but offered the French crown to Emperor Albert I.

be a doctor, and another to be an interpreter.[3] Now a vicar is one to whom has been assigned jurisdiction according to law or to his arbitrary judgment; and so within the boundaries of the jurisdiction assigned to him he may determine legally or arbitrarily matters of which his lord has no knowledge.[4] But an envoy, in so far as he is an envoy, cannot do so, for as the hammer operates only through the strength of the smith, so the envoy acts only through the will of the person who delegates him.[5] Nor does it follow, though God did this when Samuel was His envoy, that the Vicar of God can do it. For through His angels God has achieved, is achieving, and will achieve, many things which the Vicar of God, the successor of Peter, was powerless to do.

4. Their argument is constructed from the whole to the part like this: Man can hear and

3. "Sicut aliud est esse doctorem, aliud esse interpretem."

4. Witte quotes from the Decretals of Gregory IX, 1. 28. 5: "A vicar can do whatever pertains to the jurisdiction of him in whose stead he acts."

5. *Gen. Anim.* 5. 8. The figure is again used *Par.* 2. 128: "The movement and virtue of the holy circles, as from the smith the craft of the hammer, must needs from the blessed movers have their breath."

Conv. 4. 23. 2: "The fire and the hammer are efficient causes of the knife, although the principal cause is the smith."

see; therefore the eye can hear and see. However, it would hold negatively: Man cannot fly; therefore the arms of man cannot fly. And in the same way, according to the belief of Agathon,[6] God cannot through a messenger undo what has been done; therefore His Vicar is unable to do so.

CHAPTER VII

Argument from the oblation of the Magi.

1. From the book of Matthew they also cite the oblation of the Magi, claiming that Christ accepted both frankincense and gold, in order to signify that He was Lord and Governor of the spiritual and temporal domains.[1] They draw as inference from this that the Vicar of Christ is lord and governor of these realms, and consequently has authority over both.

6. *Eth.* 6. 2. 6: "But what is past does not admit of being undone; therefore Agathon rightly says, 'Of this alone even God is deprived, the power of making things that are past never to have been.'"

Agathon is mentioned as being one of the Greek poets in Limbo *Purg.* 22. 107. Historically, nothing is known of this poet except his friendship with Socrates, Plato, and Euripides, and the references to him in Aristotle's *Poetics* and *Rhetoric.*

1. *Matt.* 2. 11.

2. In answering this I grant the text of Matthew and their interpretation, but the inference they try to draw from it is false through deficiency in the terms. Their syllogism is this: God is Lord of the spiritual and temporal domains; the Pope is the Vicar of God; therefore he is lord of the spiritual and temporal domains. While each proposition is true, the middle term is changed to admit four terms to the argument, thereby impairing the syllogistic form. This is plain from the writings *on Syllogizing considered simply*.[2] For one term is "God," the subject of the major premise, and the other term is "Vicar of God," the predicate of the minor.

3. And if any one insists on the equivalence of God and Vicar, his insistence is useless, for no vicar, divine or human, can be coördinate with His authority, as is easily seen. And we know that the successor of Peter is not coequal with divine power, at least not in the operation of nature. He could not by virtue of the office committed to him make earth rise up, or fire fall.[3] It is impossible that God should have

2. *Anal. Pr.* 1. 25.

3. *Eth.* 2. 1. 2. This thought is used by Dante, *De Mon.* 1. 15. 2, and the words from Aristotle are given in note 6 to that paragraph.

intrusted all things to him, for God was in no way able to delegate the power of creation or of baptism, as is plainly proved despite the contrary statement of the Master[4] in his fourth book.

4. We know, too, that a man's deputy, in so far as he is a deputy, is not of coördinate power with him, because no one can bestow what does not belong to him. Princely authority belongs to a prince only for his employment, since no prince can authorize himself; he has power to receive and to reject it, but no power to create it in another, seeing that the creation of a prince is not effected by a prince. If this is true, it is evident that no prince can substitute for himself a regent equal in all things to himself. Wherefore the protest is of no avail.

4. Peter Lombard (1100–1164), whom Dante places among the great doctors in the Heaven of the Sun *Par.* 10. 107. This reference is to his *Libri Sententiarum* 4. 5. 2, 3: "Christ gave to his servants the administering of baptism, but the power he retained for himself, which had he so wished he could have given them; . . . but he did not wish to, lest a servant should put his hope in a servant." As Wicksteed remarks, Dante does not believe in the deputing of ministry without power.

CHAPTER VIII

Argument from the prerogative of the keys consigned to Peter.

1. From the same gospel they quote the saying of Christ to Peter, "Whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven,"[1] and understand this saying to refer alike to all the

1. *Matt.* 16. 19: "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

This argument from the keys of Peter is set forth by Thomas Aquinas, *De Regimine Principium* 3. 10; *S. T.* 3, Suppl. Q. 17; in the *Decretals of Gregory IX* 1. 33. 6; 2. 1. 13. Dante's reverence for the pontifical office can never be questioned even in the expression of sentiments the most Ghibelline. *De Mon.* 2. 3. 4, and note 8. The main references in the *Comedy* that show his attitude toward the successors of Peter are: —

Inf. 19. 90–101: "My reverence for the supreme keys . . ."

Inf. 27. 103: "I have power to lock and unlock Heaven as thou knowest; since two are the keys which my forerunner held not dear." These are words put into the mouth of Boniface VIII.

The two keys which Statius held from Peter in his office as guardian of the gate of Purgatory are described *Purg.* 9. 117 ff.

Par. 23. 136: "Here triumphs, under the high Son of

Apostles, according to the text of Matthew and John.[2] They reason from this that the successor of Peter has been granted of God power to bind and loose all things, and then infer that he has power to loose the laws and decrees of the Empire, and to bind the laws and decrees of the temporal kingdom. Were this true, their inference would be correct.

2. But we must reply to it by making a distinction against the major premise of the syllogism which they employ. Their syllogism is this: Peter had power to bind and loose all things; the successor of Peter has like power with him; therefore the successor of Peter has power to loose and bind all things. From this they infer that he has power to loose and bind the laws and decrees of the Empire.

God, and of Mary, for his victory, . . . he who holds the keys of such glory."

Par. 24. 34: "O eternal light of the great man to whom our Lord left the keys, which He bore below, of this wondrous joy."

Par. 27. 46: "It was not our intention . . . that the keys which were granted to me should become a device on a banner to fight against men baptized." So Peter rebukes the wickedness of the Church and its officials.

Par. 32. 124: "On the right behold that ancient Father of Holy Church to whom Christ entrusted the keys of this lovely flower."

2. *Matt.* 18. 18; *John* 20. 23.

3. I concede the minor premise, but the major only with distinction. Wherefore I say that "all," the symbol of the universal, which is implied in "whatsoever," is never distributed beyond the scope of the distributed term. When I say, "All animals run," the distribution of "all" comprehends whatever comes under the genus "animal." But when I say, "All men run," the symbol of the universal only refers to whatever comes under the term "man." And when I say, "All grammarians run," the distribution is narrowed still further.

4. Therefore we must always determine what it is over which the symbol of the universal is distributed; then, from the recognized nature and scope of the distributed term, will be easily apparent the extent of the distribution. Now, were "whatsoever" to be understood absolutely when it is said, "Whatsoever thou shalt bind," he would certainly have the power they claim; nay, he would have even greater power, he would be able to loose a wife from her husband, and, while the man still lived, bind her to another — a thing he can in no wise do. He would be able to absolve me, while impenitent — a thing which God himself cannot do.[3]

3. *Rom.* 7. 3. *Inf.* 27. 118: "Absolved he cannot be, who does not repent; nor is it possible to repent and to will

5. So it is evident that the distribution of the term under discussion is to be taken, not absolutely, but relatively to something else. A consideration of the concession to which the distribution is subjoined will make manifest this related something. Christ said to Peter, "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven;" that is, I will make thee doorkeeper of the kingdom of heaven. Then he adds, "and whatsoever," that is, "everything which," and He means thereby, "Everything which pertains to that office thou shalt have power to bind and loose." And thus the symbol of the universal which is implied in "whatsoever" is limited in its distribution to the prerogative of the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Understood thus, the proposition is true, but understood absolutely, it is obviously not. Therefore I conclude that although the successor of Peter has authority to bind and loose in accordance with the requirements of the prerogative granted to Peter, it does not follow, as they claim, that he has authority to bind and loose the decrees or statutes of Empire, unless they prove that this also belongs to the office of the keys. But we shall demonstrate farther on that the contrary is true.

at the same time, by reason of the contradiction which agrees not in it."

CHAPTER IX

Argument from the two swords.

1. They quote also the words in Luke which Peter addressed to Christ, saying, "Behold, here are two swords,"[1] and they assert that the two ruling powers were predicted by those two swords, and because Peter declared they were

1. *Luke* 22. 38. This was one of the most popular arguments in mediaeval writers for the supremacy of the Church. In the bull "Unam Sanctam" Boniface VIII says: "We are taught by the words of the gospel to recognize that two swords are in the power of this man, that is, the spiritual and temporal. For when the apostles said, 'Here are two swords,' the Lord did not respond, 'It is too much,' but, 'It is enough.' Both are in the power of the Church: the one the spiritual, to be used by the Church, the other the material, for the Church; the former that of priests, the latter that of kings and soldiers, to be wielded at the command and by the sufferance of the priest. One sword must be under the other, the temporal under the spiritual. . . . The spiritual instituted the temporal power, and judges whether that power is well exercised. . . . We therefore assert, define, and pronounce that it is necessary to salvation to believe that every human being is subject to the Pontiff of Rome."

Generally with Dante the sword typifies Empire. *Purg.* 16. 109: "The sword is joined with the crook." *Par.* 8. 145: "But ye wrest to religion such an one as shall have been born to be girt with the sword, and ye make him a king who is a man of sermons."

"where he was," that is, "with him," they conclude that according to authority these two ruling powers abide with Peter's successor.

2. To refute this we must show the falsity of the interpretation on which the argument is based. Their assertion that the two swords which Peter designated signify the two ruling powers before spoken of, we deny outright, because such an answer would have been at variance with Christ's meaning, and because Peter replied in haste, as usual, with regard to the mere external significance of things.

3. A consideration of the words preceding it and of the cause of the words will show that such an answer would have been inconsistent with Christ's meaning. Let it be called to mind that this response was made on the day of the feast, which Luke mentions earlier, saying, "Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed."[2] At this feast Christ had already foretold His impending passion, in which He must be parted from His disciples. Let it be remembered also that when these words were uttered, all the twelve disciples were together; wherefore a little after the words just quoted Luke says, "And when the hour was come, He sat down, and the twelve

2. *Luke* 22. 7.

Apostles with him."[3] Continuing the discourse from this place he reaches the words, "When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything?"[4] And they answered, "Nothing." Then said He unto them, "But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." The meaning of Christ is clear enough here. He did not say, "Buy or procure two swords," but "twelve;" for it was in order that each of the twelve disciples might have one that He said to them, "He that hath no sword, let him buy one." And He spake thus to forewarn them of the persecution and contempt the future should bring, as though he would say, "While I was with you ye were welcomed, now shall ye be turned away. It behooves you, therefore, to prepare for yourselves those things which before I denied to you, but for which there is present need." If Peter's reply to these words had carried the meaning ascribed to it, the meaning would have been at variance with that of Christ, and Christ would have censured Him, as he did oftentimes, for his witless answers. However, He did not do so, but assented, saying to him,

3. *Luke* 22. 14.
4. *Luke* 22. 35, 36.

"It is enough,"[5] meaning, "I speak because of necessity; but if each cannot have a sword, two will suffice."

4. And that Peter usually spoke of the external significance of things is shown in his quick and unthinking presumption, impelled, I believe, not only by the sincerity of his faith, but by the purity and simplicity of his nature. To this characteristic presumption all those who write of Christ bear witness.

5. First, Matthew records that when Jesus had inquired of the disciples: "Whom say ye that I am?" before all the others Peter replied, "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God." He also records that when Christ was telling His disciples how He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, Peter took Him and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." Then Christ, turning to him, said in reproof, "Get thee behind me, Satan."[6] Matthew also writes that on the Mount of Transfiguration, in the presence of Christ, Moses, and Elias, and the two sons of Zebedee, Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles, one for thee, one for Moses, and

5. *Luke* 22. 38.
6. *Matt.* 16. 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.

one for Elias."[7] Matthew further writes that when the disciples were on the ship in the night, and Christ walked on the water, Peter said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water."[8] And that when Christ predicted how all His disciples should be offended because of Him, Peter answered, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."[9] And afterwards, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee." And this statement Mark[10] confirms, while Luke writes that, just before the words we have quoted concerning the swords, Peter had said to Christ, "Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison and to death."[11]

6. John tells of him, that when Christ desired to wash his feet, Peter asked, "Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" and then said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet."[12] He further relates

7. *Matt.* 17. 4.

8. *Matt.* 14. 28. Peter's faith on this occasion is the subject of praise again in *Par.* 24. 34: "O eternal light of the great man to whom our Lord left the keys, which he bore below, of this wondrous joy, try this man concerning points easy and hard as pleases thee, about the faith by which thou didst go upon the sea."

9. *Matt.* 26. 33, 35.

10. *Mark* 14. 29.

11. *Luke* 22. 33.

12. *John* 13. 6, 8.

how Peter smote with his sword the servant of the High Priest, an account in which the four Evangelists agree.[13] And John tells how when Peter came to the sepulchre and saw the other disciples lingering at the door, he entered in straightway;[14] and again when after the resurrection Jesus stood on the shore and Peter "heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him (for he was naked), and did cast himself into the sea."[15] Lastly, he recounts that when Peter saw John, he said to Jesus, "Lord, and what shall this man do?"[16]

7. It is a source of joy to have summed up this evidence of our Head Shepherd,[17] in praise of his singleness of purpose. From all this it is obvious that when he spoke of the two swords,

13. *John* 18. 10; *Matt.* 26. 51; *Mark* 14. 47; *Luke* 22. 50.

14. *John* 20. 5, 6. Dante's second reference to this incident is in *Par.* 24. 125: "O holy father, O spirit who seest that which thou so believest, that thou didst outdo younger feet toward the sepulchre."

15. *John* 21. 7.

16. *John* 21. 21.

17. "Head Shepherd" is in the Latin "Archimandrita." St. Francis is given this name *Par.* 11. 99: "The holy desire of this head shepherd of his flock was crowned with a second diadem by the eternal spirit through Honorius." And in *Letter* 9. 6 Dante calls the unfaithful officers of the Church, "Archimandrites throughout the world in name alone."

his answer to Christ was unambiguous in meaning.

8. Even if the words of Christ and Peter are to be accepted typically, they cannot be interpreted in the sense these men claim, but rather as referring to the sword concerning which Matthew writes: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father,"[18] and what follows. This He accomplished in word and deed, wherefore Luke tells Theophilus of all "that Jesus began to do and teach."[19] Such was the sword Christ enjoined them to buy, and Peter made answer that already they had two with them. As we have shown, they were ready for words and for works to bring to pass those things which Christ proclaimed He had come to do by the sword.

CHAPTER X

Argument from the donation of Constantine.[1]

1. In addition, some persons affirm that the Emperor Constantine, healed of leprosy by the

18. *Matt.* 10. 34, 35.
19. *Acts* 1. 1.
1. Near the end of the eighth century the decretals and do-

intercession of Sylvester, then the Supreme Pontiff,[2] gave to the Church the very seat of Empire, Rome, together with many imperial dignities.[3] Wherefore they argue that no one

nation of Constantine were forged, documents which purported that when that Emperor removed his capital to Byzantium, 324 A. D., he left Rome in order to give to the Church temporal sway in the western world. That this donation was a forgery was not discovered until 1440 by Laurentinus Valla. See Gibbon, vol. 6. 49 (notes 68–76), the Milman-Smith edition. It is scarcely necessary to add that Dante had firm faith in the genuineness of the donation.

2. *Inf.* 27. 94: "Constantine sought Sylvester within Soracte to heal him of his leprosy." This legend Butler thinks Dante took from Brunetto, *Trésor*, Bk. 1, Pt. 2, c. 87, but Toynbee traces it to the *Legenda Aurea* of Jacobus de Voragine. See Toynbee, *Studies*, p. 297. Cf. *De Regim. Princ.* 3. 16.

3. The donation is mentioned *De Mon.* 2. 12. 2; 2. 13. 5; 3. 13. 4.

Inf. 19. 115: "Ah, Constantine, of how great ill was mother, not thy conversion, but the dowry which the first rich pope got from thee."

In the vision of Church and Empire, *Purg.* 32, the worldly wealth of the papacy is thus described l. 124: "Next from thence, whence it had before come, I saw the eagle come down into the ark of the car, and leave it feathered with itself;" line 136: "That which remained, like ground alive with herbage, covered itself again with feathers, offered haply with sound and benign intention, and was covered again."

The eagle describes Constantine *Par.* 20. 55: "The second who follows, with the laws and with me, under a good

has power to assume these dignities except he receives them from the Church, to whom it is asserted they belong. And from this it would fairly follow, as they desire, that one authority is dependent on the other.

2. So having stated and refuted the arguments which seemed to be rooted in divine communications, it now remains to set forth and disprove those rooted in Roman deeds and human reason. We have just spoken of the first of these, whose syllogism runs thus: Those things which belong to the Church no one can rightly possess, unless granted them by the Church; and this we concede. The ruling power of Rome belongs to the Church; therefore no one can rightly possess it unless granted it by the Church. And the minor premise they prove by the facts mentioned above concerning Constantine.

3. This minor premise, then, I deny. Their proof is no proof, for Constantine had not the power to alienate the imperial dignity, nor had the Church power to receive it. Their insistent objection to what I say can be met thus. No

intention which bore ill fruit, to give way to the Pastor, made himself a Greek. Now knows he how the ill deduced from his good work is not harmful to him, albeit that the world be thereby destroyed."

one is free to do through an office assigned him anything contrary to the office, for thereby the same thing, in virtue of being the same, would be contrary to itself, which is impossible. But to divide the Empire would be contrary to the office assigned the Emperor, for as is easily seen from the first book of the treatise, his office is to hold the human race subject to one will in all things. Therefore, division of his Empire is not allowed an Emperor. If, as they claim, certain dignities were alienated by Constantine from the Empire and ceded to the power of the Church, the "seamless coat"[4] would have been rent, which even they had not dared to mutilate who with their spears pierced Christ, the very God. Moreover, as the Church has its own foundation, so has the Empire its own. The foundation of the Church is Christ, as the Apostle writes to the Corinthians: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."[5] He is the rock on which the Church is founded,[6] but the foundation of the Empire is human Right. Now I say

4. *John* 19. 23, 24, 34. The seamless robe is again used as the type of undivided monarchy *De Mon.* 1. 16, and note 6.

5. *1 Cor.* 3. 11.

6. *Matt.* 16. 18.

that as the Church cannot act contrary to its foundation, but must be supported thereby, according to that verse of the *Canticles:* "Who is she that cometh up from the desert, abounding in delights, leaning on her beloved?"[7] so the Empire cannot act in conflict with human Right. Therefore the Empire may not destroy itself, for, should it do so, it would act in conflict with human Right. Inasmuch as the Empire consists in the indivisibility of universal Monarchy, and inasmuch as an apportionment of the Empire would destroy it, it is evident that division is not allowed to him who discharges imperial duty.[8] And it is proved, from what has been previously said, that to destroy the Empire would be contrary to human Right.

4. Besides, every jurisdiction exists prior to its judge, since the judge is ordained for the

7. *Can.* 8. 5 (Vulg.). The English version has not the words "deliciis effluens," "abounding in delights." Dante quotes the verse, as here, in *Conv.* 2. 6. 2, as definitely signifying the Church.

8. Witte refers to Engelbertus Admonteus, *De Ortu et Fine Rom. Imp.* 18: "It was not permitted that the Emperor Hadrian or Jovinian should surrender the imperial boundaries, . . . nor has it been, nor will it be permitted to any Emperor, because then would it fall from the name and dignity of Augustus, which means that the Empire should be augmented and not diminished."

jurisdiction, and not conversely. As the Empire is a jurisdiction embracing in its circuit the administration of justice in all temporal things, so it is prior to its judge, who is Emperor; and the Emperor is ordained for it, and not conversely. Clearly the Emperor, as Emperor, cannot alter the Empire, for from it he receives his being and state. So I say, either he was Emperor when he made the concession they speak of to the Church, or he was not. If he was not, it is plain that he had no power to grant anything with regard to the Empire. And if he was, then as Emperor he could not have done this, for the concession would have narrowed his jurisdiction.

5. Further, if one Emperor has power to cut away one bit from the jurisdiction of the Empire, another may do the same for like reason. And since temporal jurisdiction is finite, and every finite thing may be consumed by finite losses, the possibility of annihilating primal jurisdiction would follow. But this is inconceivable.

6. And since he who confers a thing has the relation of agent, and he on whom it is conferred the relation of patient, according to the Philosopher in the fourth book *to Nicomachus*, then in order for a grant to be legal, proper

qualification is essential not only in the giver, but in the recipient.[9] Indeed, it seems that the acts of agents exist potentially in a properly qualified patient. But the Church was utterly disqualified for receiving temporal power by the express prohibitive command in Matthew: "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey," etc.[10] For although we learn from Luke[11] of the mitigation of this order regarding certain things, yet I am unable to find that sanction was given the Church to possess gold and silver, subsequent to the prohibition. Wherefore if the Church had not power to receive, even had Constantine power to bestow, temporal authority, the action would nevertheless be impossible, because of the disqualification of the patient. It is demonstrated, then, that neither could the Church accept by way of possession, nor could Constantine confer by way of alienation. However, the Emperor did have power to depute to the protectorship of the Church a patrimony and other things, as long as his supreme com-

9. *Eth.* 4. 1. 8: "The liberal man will give for the sake of the honorable, and will give properly, for he will give to proper objects, in proper quantities, at proper times."

10. *Matt.* 10. 9.

11. *Luke* 9. 3; 10. 4.

mand, the unity of which suffers no impairment, remained unchanged. And the Vicar of God had power to receive such things, not for possession, but for distribution on behalf of the Church of its fruits to the poor of Christ.[12] We are not ignorant that thus the Apostles did.

CHAPTER XI

Argument from the summoning of Charles the Great by Pope Hadrian.

1. Still further, our opponents say that Pope Hadrian called[1] Charles the Great[2] to the aid of himself and the Church, because of oppression by the Lombards[3] in the reign of Desiderius

12. *De Mon.* 2. 12. 1, and note 2.

1. "Advocavit" in the original, and closely related to "advocati" in the following sentence, the "advocates" or "those called."

2. Charlemagne became king of the Frankish people in 771; petitioned for aid against the Lombards by Pope Hadrian, he defeated Desiderius in 774, and became king of the Lombards; he was made Emperor of the West by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day, 800. Pope Hadrian did not give Charlemagne the imperial dignity. Dante places Charlemagne among the defenders of the faith in the Heaven of Mars *Par.* 18. 43.

3. *Par.* 6. 94: "And when the Lombard tooth bit the Holy Church, under its wings great Charles conquering succoured her." Cf. *De Regim. Princ.* 10. 10, 18.

their king, and that from the Pope Charles received the dignity of Empire, notwithstanding the fact that Michael[4] held imperial sway at Constantinople. Wherefore they declare that after Charles all Roman Emperors were advocates of the Church, and must be called to office by the Church. From this would follow the relationship between the Church and Empire which they desire to prove.

2. To refute this argument, I answer that their premise in it is a mere nullity, for usurpation of right does not create a right. If it did, the same method would show the dependency of ecclesiastical authority on the Empire, after the Emperor Otto restored Pope Leo, and deposed Benedict, sending him in exile to Saxony.[5]

4. Michael I reigned in Constantinople from 811 to 813. The ruler at the time of Charlemagne was the Empress Irene (797–802).

5. Otto I was Emperor 962–973. In 963 the Roman synod elected his nominee for the papacy, but in the following year, while the Emperor was absent from Rome, they deposed Leo III and put Benedict V in the chair. On Otto's return in 964, he sent Benedict to Hamburg and reinstated Leo.

CHAPTER XII

Argument from reason.

1. Their argument from reason, however, is this. They lay down the principle advanced in the tenth book of the *First Philosophy*, that "all things of one genus are reducible to a type which is the standard of measurement for all within the genus." [1] Since all men are of one genus, they ought to be reducible to a type as a standard for all others. And since the Supreme Pontiff and the Emperor are men, they must therefore, if our conclusion is true, be reducible to one man. And since the Pope cannot be subordinated to another, it remains for the Emperor and all others to be subordinated to the Pope as their measure and rule; whence results the conclusion they desire.

2. That this reasoning may be invalidated, I agree that their statement is true that all things of one genus ought to be reduced to some one member of that genus as a standard of measurement. Likewise is it true that all men are of one genus. Also is true their conclusion drawn from these that all men ought to be

1. *Metaphys.* 10. 1. In *Conv.* 1. 1. 1, as here, Dante calls the *Metaphysics* the *First Philosophy*.

subordinated to one standard for the genus. But when from this conclusion they draw the further inference concerning Pope and Emperor, they deceive themselves with the fallacy of accidental attributes.

3. To make this evident, be it known that it is one thing to be a man and another thing to be a Pope. And just so it is one thing to be a man and another thing to be an Emperor, as it is one thing to be a man and another to be a father or master. Man is man because of his substantial form, which is the determinant of his species and genus, and which places him under the category of substance.[2] But a father is such because of an accidental form, that of relation, which is the determinant of a certain species and genus, and which places him under the category of relation. Otherwise everything would be reduced to the category of substance, since no

2. The two main categories are those of substance and accident. Under accident are the sub-categories of relation, position, quality, etc. In the category of substance, Pope and Emperor are measurable by the same standard. In the category of accident, they are in the same sub-genus of relation, and in different but coördinate species of the sub-genus. So in the category of accident they are not measurable by the same standard. In the text Dante uses the word "praedicamentum" for category, and in *De Mon.* 3. 15. 4 he calls Aristotle's *Categories* by that name.

accidental form exists in itself, apart from the basis of underlying substance. But this is false. Therefore since the Pope and Emperor are what they are because of certain relations, the former through the Papacy, a relation in the province of fatherhood, and the latter through the Empire, a relation in the province of government, it is manifest that the Pope and the Emperor, in so far as they are such, must have place under the category of relation, and consequently must be subordinated to something in that genus.

4. Whence, I repeat, they are to be measured by one standard in so far as they are men, and by another in so far as they are Pope and Emperor. Now, in so far as they are men, they have to be measured by the best man (whoever he may be [3]), that is, by him who is the standard and ideal of all men, and who has the most perfect unity among his kind, as we may learn from the last book *to Nicomachus*.[4] But in as far as they are relative, it is evident that one must be measured by the other, if one is subordinate; or they must unite in a common species from the nature of their relation; or they must

3. Then the best man might be other than the Pope or Emperor.

4. *Eth.* 10. 5. 10: "Excellence and the good man, so far forth as he is good, are the measure of everything."

be measured by a third something as their common ground of unity. But it cannot be maintained that one is subordinate to the other; that is, it is false to predicate one of the other, to call the Emperor the Pope, or to call the Pope the Emperor. Nor is it possible to maintain that they unite in a common species, for the relation of Pope, as such, is other than the relation of Emperor as Emperor. Therefore they must be measured by something beyond themselves in which they shall find a ground of unity.

5. At this point it must be understood that as relation stands to relation, so stands related thing to related thing. Hence if the Papacy and Empire, being relations of authority,[5] must be measured with regard to the supreme authority from which they and their characteristic differences are derived, the Pope and Emperor, being relative, must be referred to some unity wherein may be found the supreme authority without these characteristic differences. And this will be either God Himself, in whom every relation is universally united, or in some substance inferior to God, in whom is found a supreme authority differentiated and derived from His perfect supremacy. And so it is evident that the Pope

5. "Quum sint relationes superpositionis."

and Emperor, as men, are to be measured by one standard, but as Pope and Emperor by another. And this demonstration is from the argument according to reason.

CHAPTER XIII

The authority of the Church is not the source of Imperial authority.

1. Now that we have stated and rejected the errors on which those chiefly rely who declare that the authority of the Roman Prince is dependent on the Roman Pontiff, we must return and demonstrate the truth of that third question, which we propounded for discussion at the beginning. The truth will be evident enough if it can be shown, under the principle of inquiry agreed upon, that Imperial authority derives immediately from the summit of all being, which is God. And this will be shown, whether we prove that Imperial authority does not derive from that of the Church (for the dispute concerns no other authority), or whether we simply prove that it derives immediately from God.

2. That ecclesiastical authority is not the source of Imperial authority is thus verified. A

thing non-existent or devoid of active force cannot be the cause of active force in a thing possessing that quality in full measure. But before the Church existed, or while it lacked power to act, the Empire had active force in full measure. Hence the Church is the source neither of acting power nor of authority in the Empire, where power to act and authority are identical. Let A be the Church, B the Empire, and C the power or authority of the Empire. If, A being non-existent, C is in B, the cause of C's relation to B cannot be A, since it is impossible that an effect should exist prior to its cause. Moreover, if, A being inoperative, C is in B, the cause of C's relation to B cannot be A, since it is indispensable for the production of effect that the cause should be in operation previously, especially the efficient cause which we are considering here.

3. The major premise of this demonstration is intelligible from its terms; the minor is confirmed by Christ and the Church. Christ attests it, as we said before, in His birth and death. The Church attests it in Paul's declaration to Festus in the *Acts of the Apostles:* "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged;"[1] and in the admonition of God's

1. *Acts* 25. 10.

angel to Paul a little later: "Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar;"[2] and again still later in Paul's words to the Jews dwelling in Italy: "And when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had aught to accuse my nation of," but "that I might deliver my soul from death."[3] If Caesar had not already possessed the right to judge temporal matters, Christ would not have implied that he did, the angel would not have uttered such words, nor would he who said, "I desire to depart and be with Christ,"[4] have appealed to an unqualified judge.

4. And if Constantine had no authority over the resources of the Church, that which he transferred to her from the Empire could not have been so transferred with Right, and the Church would be utilizing an unrighteous gift. But God desires that offerings be spotless, according to the text of *Leviticus:* "No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the Lord, shall be made with leaven;"[5] and this command, though it seem to concern givers, refers nevertheless to recipients. For it is folly to believe that God desires that to be accepted which He forbids to be given. Indeed, in the same book is

2. *Acts* 27. 24.
3. *Acts* 28. 19.
4. *Phil.* 1. 23.
5. *Lev.* 2. 11.

the command to the Levites: "Contaminate not your souls, nor touch anything of theirs, lest ye be unclean."[6] But it is highly improper to say that the Church uses unrighteously the patrimony deputed to her, therefore what followed from such a saying is false.

CHAPTER XIV

The Church received power of transference neither from God, from herself, nor from any Emperor.

1. Besides, if the Church has power to confer authority on the Roman Prince, she would have it either from God, or from herself, or from some Emperor, or from the unanimous consent of mankind, or at least, from the consent of the most influential. There is no other least crevice through which the power could have diffused itself into the Church. But from none of these has it come to her, and therefore the aforesaid power is not hers at all.

2. Here is the proof that it has come from none of these sources. If she had received it from God, it would have been by divine or natural law, for what is received from nature is received from God, though the converse is not

6. *Lev.* 11. 43.

true. But this ecclesiastical right came not by natural law, for nature imposes no law save for her own effects, and inadequacy is not possible to God where He brings something into being without secondary agents.[1] Since the Church is an effect not of nature, but of God, who said, "Upon this rock I will build my Church,"[2] and in another place, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do,"[3] it is indisputable that nature gave not this law to the Church.

3. Neither did this power come by divine law; for in the bosom of the two Testaments, wherein is embodied every divine law, I am unable to discover any command for the early or later priesthood to have care or solicitude in temporal things. Nay, I find rather that the early priests were released from such care by precept, as in the words God spake to Moses;[4]

1. Dante seems to imply that things brought to pass through nature are brought to pass through a secondary agent.

2. *Matt.* 16. 18.

3. *John* 17. 4.

4. *Num.* 18. 20: "And the Lord spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them. I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel."

Purg. 16. 131: "The sons of Levi were exempted from the heritage."

and the same of later priests as in the words of Christ to His disciples.[5] Nor would it have been possible to have been thus released, if the authority of temporal power originated with the priesthood ; for at least anxiety concerning right provision would be with them in conferring authority, and then continual precaution, lest the authorized might deviate from the path of rectitude.

4. Also, that this power came not from the Church is easily seen. Nothing can give what it does not possess, so everything must be in act what it intends to do, as is held in the treatise *on simple Being*.[6] But if the Church gave to herself that power, it was not hers before she gave it, and she thus would have given herself that which she did not possess, which cannot be.

5. That the power came not from some Emperor is sufficiently explained by what has gone before.

6. And, indeed, who doubts that it came not from the unanimous consent of men, or from that of the most influential? Not only all the

5. *Matt.* 10. 9: "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses;" *Mark* 6. 8; *Luke* 9. 3; 10. 4; 22. 35.

6. *Metaphys.* 8. 8. The priority of energy or activity to capacity or potentiality is discussed here at length.

people of Asia and Africa, but even the greater part of those inhabiting Europe, are averse to her. Truly, it is bootless to adduce proofs in matters perfectly evident.

CHAPTER XV

The prerogative of conferring authority upon the Empire is contrary to the nature of the Church.

1. Again, that which is contrary to the nature of anything is not numbered among its peculiar powers, since the powers of anything correspond to its nature for the attainment of its end.[1] But the power to confer authority over the kingdom of our mortal life is contrary to the nature of the Church, and is therefore not numbered among her prerogatives.

2. To prove the minor premise, it must be known that the nature of the Church is the informing principle of the Church. For though the word "nature" may be used of material and

1. *Phys.* 7. 3. *Conv.* 3. 15. 4: "The natural desire of everything is regulated according to the capacity of the thing desiring; otherwise it would oppose itself, which is impossible, and nature would have made it in vain, which is also impossible." *De Mon.* 1. 3. 1; 1. 10. 1; 2. 7. 2, repeat the same idea.

form, yet it is used more properly of form, as is shown in the book on *Natural Learning*.[2] But the form of the Church is naught else than the life of Christ as it is comprised in His teachings and in His deeds. Truly, His life was the ideal and exemplar of the Church militant, particularly of its pastors, and more than all of its Head Shepherd, whose duty it is to feed His sheep and lambs. Hence, when in the Gospel of John He bequeathed to men the informing principle of His life, He said, "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."[3] And especially, as we learn from the same Gospel, when He said to Peter, after He had conferred upon Him the function of shepherd, "Peter, follow me."[4] But before Pilate, Christ disclaimed any ruling power of a temporal kind, saying, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be

2. *Phys.* 2. 1: "Form is nature."

Metaphys. 6. 7. 4: "From art are generated those things of whatsoever there is a form in the soul. But I mean by form the essence or very nature of a thing." *L. c.* 6. 9: "Art is form." *S. T.* 1–2. 94. 3: "Every being is naturally inclined to an activity befitting itself, according to its form."

3. *John* 13. 15.

4. *John* 21. 19.

delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from hence."[5]

3. This must not be understood to imply that Christ, who is God, is not Lord of the temporal kingdom, seeing that the Psalmist says, "The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land;"[6] but rather to mean that, as exemplar of the Church, He had not charge of this kingdom. Similarly, if a golden seal were to say, "I am not the standard for any class of objects," it would not speak truly, in so far as it is gold, the standard of all metals. It would speak truly only in so far as it is a particular stamp, capable of being received by impression.[7]

4. Therefore it is the formal principle of the Church to declare and to believe Christ's saying. To declare and to believe the opposite is manifestly contrary to the formal principle, or, what is the same thing, to the nature of the Church. We may gather from this that the prerogative to grant authority to the temporal domain is contrary to the nature of the Church, for contrariety in thought or in saying follows from contrariety in the thing spoken or thought. Just so truth or falsity in speech originates from the existence or non-existence of a thing, as the

5. *John* 18. 36. 6. *Ps.* 95. 5.
7. *De Mon.* 2. 3, notes 6 and 13.

teaching of the *Categories*[8] shows us. Through the above arguments, leading to an absurdity, has it been sufficiently demonstrated that the authority of Empire is not at all dependent upon the Church.

CHAPTER XVI

The authority of the Empire derives from God directly.

1. Although by the method of reduction to absurdity it has been shown in the foregoing chapter that the authority of Empire has not its source in the Chief Pontiff, yet it has not been fully proved, save by an inference, that its immediate source is God, seeing that if the authority does not depend on the Vicar of God, we conclude that it depends on God Himself. For a perfect demonstration of the proposition we must prove directly that the Emperor, or Monarch, of the world has immediate relationship to the Prince of the universe, who is God.[1]

2. In order to realize this, it must be understood that man alone of all beings holds the middle place between corruptibility and incorrupti-

8. *Categ.* c. 12. *De Mon.* 3. 12, note 2.

1. *De Mon.* 1. 7. 1. *Purg.* 32. 100: "Here thou shalt be a little time a woodman, and with me shalt thou be without end, a citizen of that Rome whereof Christ is a Roman."

bility, and is therefore rightly compared by philosophers to the horizon which lies between the two hemispheres.[2] Man may be considered with regard to either of his essential parts, body or soul.[3] If considered in regard to the body alone, he is perishable; if in regard to the soul alone, he is imperishable. So the Philosopher spoke well of its incorruptibility when he said in the second book *on the Soul*, "And this only can be separated as a thing eternal from that which perishes."[4]

3. If man holds a middle place between the perishable and imperishable, then, inasmuch as

2. *De Causis*, Lect. 2: "Generated intelligence comprehends both nature and the horizon of nature, that is to say the soul, for it is above nature."

3. The nature and origin of the human soul is discussed *Conv.* 4. 21. In *Purg.* 25 Statius discourses on generation and the soul, and its attributes find due place there. Other references are: —

Conv. 4. 21. 2: "We must know that man is composed of soul and body; but of the soul is that nobility . . . which is as the seed of the Divine virtue."

Par. 7. 139: "The soul of every brute and of the plants, being endued by complexion with potency, draws in the ray and the movement of the holy lights. But your life the highest Goodness inspires."

So Thomas Aquinas, *S. T.* 1. 76. 4. 4: "The soul is the substantial form of man;" so also *l. c.* 1–2. 94. 3: "The proper form of man is his rational soul."

4. *De Anima* 2. 2. 21.

every mean shares the nature of the extremes, man must share both natures.[5] And inasmuch as every nature is ordained for a certain ultimate end, it follows that there exists for man a two-fold end, in order that as he alone of all beings partakes of the perishable and the imperishable, so he alone of all beings should be ordained for two ultimate ends. One end is for that in him which is perishable, the other for that which is imperishable.

4. Ineffable Providence has thus designed two ends to be contemplated of man: first, the happiness of this life, which consists in the activity of his natural powers,[6] and is prefigured by the terrestrial Paradise;[7] and then the blessedness of life everlasting, which consists in the enjoyment of the countenance of God, to which man's natural powers may not attain unless aided by divine light, and which may be symbolized by the celestial Paradise.[8]

5. *De Part. Anim.* 3. 1.

6. *Conv.* 3. 15. 5: "Felicity . . . is action according to virtue, in the perfect life." So Aristotle says in *Eth.* 1. 13. 1: "Happiness is a certain energy of the soul according to perfect goodness." Dante uses this definition again *Conv.* 4. 17. 14.

7. *Purg.* 28–33 describes the terrestrial Paradise and its place in the order of the universe.

8. The whole of the *Paradiso* develops the gradual reve-

5. To these states of blessedness, just as to diverse conclusions, man must come by diverse means. To the former we come by the teachings of philosophy, obeying them by acting in conformity with the moral and intellectual virtues;[9]

lation of God's self to man. For Dante's valuation of the active and speculative life, see *De Mon.* 1. 3. 3, and note 14; 1. 4, and note 1. See *Conv.* 2. 5, many parts of *Conv.* 3, and *Conv.* 4. 21, 22, 23.

Conv. 4. 22. 5: "The use of the mind is double, that is, practical and speculative. . . . Its practical use is to act through us virtuously, that is, righteously, by temperance, fortitude, and justice; the speculative is not to operate actively in us, but to consider the works of God and nature; and the one and the other use make up our beatitude."

Conv. 4. 22. 9: "In our contemplation God is always in advance of us; nor can we ever attain to Him here, who is our supreme beatitude."

Conv. 4. 22. 10: "Our beatitude . . . we may first find imperfectly in the active life, that is, in the exercise of the moral virtues, and then almost perfectly in the contemplative life, that is, in the exercise of the intellectual virtues."

S. T. 1. 2. 3. 8: "The last and perfect happiness of man cannot be other than in the vision of the Divine Essence."

9. *Conv.* 4. 17 treats of the twelve moral virtues, which include the cardinal, — fortitude, temperance, liberality, munificence, magnanimity, love of honor, meekness, affability, truth, discretion, justice, and prudence.

Canz. 3. 5: "All virtues take their rise from one sole root — that primal virtue, which makes mankind blest in acting it — which is the elective habit."

The cardinal virtues were the active virtues, as the theolo-

to the latter through spiritual teachings which transcend human reason, and which we obey by acting in conformity with the theological virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity.[10] Now the former end and means are made known to us by human reason, which the philosophers have wholly explained to us; and the latter by the Holy Spirit, which has revealed to us supernatural but essential truth through the Prophets

gical were the contemplative. So *Purg.* 31. 107: "Before that Beatrice descended to the world were we ordained to her for handmaids." And in *Purg.* 29. 130 the cardinal virtues are on the left of the symbolic car.

10. The theological virtues are called in *Purg.* 7. 34, "the three holy virtues." *Purg.* 31. 111: "The three beyond who look more deeply." They are on the right of the car in *Purg.* 29. 121: "Three ladies, whirling on the right wheel's side, came dancing, the one so red that hardly would she have been marked with fire; the second was as if her flesh and bones had been made out of emerald; the third appeared snow but lately driven."

Thomas Aquinas discusses the cardinal virtues *S. T.* 1–2. 61; the theological virtues *S. T.* 1–2. 62.

Conv. 3. 14. 5: "We believe that every miracle may be reasonable to a higher intellect, and therefore possible. Whence our precious faith has its origin, from which comes the hope of things desired, but not seen; and from this are born the works of charity. By which three virtues we ascend to philosophize in that celestial Athens, where Stoics, and Peripatetics, and Epicureans, by the art of Eternal Truth, harmoniously concur in one desire."

and Sacred Writers, through Jesus Christ, the coeternal Son of God, and through His disciples.[11] Nevertheless, human passion would cast all these behind, were not men, like horses astray in their brutishness, held to the road by bit and rein.[12]

11. *De Mon.* 2. 8, and note 1; *De Mon.* 3. 16. 6.

12. This figure, which compares man to a horse needing bit and spur to keep him in his road and under control of his rider, is almost as much a favorite with Dante as that of the wax and seal. He must have found it originally in *Ps.* 32. 9: "Be ye not as the horse or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee." The most important uses of this metaphor are as follows: —

Conv. 4. 9. 3: "The Emperor . . . is the rider of human will, and it is very evident how wildly this horse goes over the field without a rider."

Conv. 4. 26. 4: "This appetite . . . should obey the reason, which guides it with curb and spur."

Purg. 6. 88: "What boots it that Justinian should have put thy bit in order again, if the saddle is empty?"

Purg. 13. 40: "This circle scourges the sin of envy, and therefore are the lashes of the scourge wielded by love. The rein will have to be of the contrary sound."

Purg. 14. 143: "That was the hard bit which ought to hold the man within his bound."

Purg. 16. 94: "It behoved to lay down laws for a bit; it behoved to have a king who should discern of the true city at least the tower."

Purg. 20. 55: "I found so fast within my hands the rein of government of the kingdom, and such power of new

6. Wherefore a twofold directive agent was necessary to man, in accordance with the twofold end; the Supreme Pontiff to lead the human race to life eternal by means of revelation,[13] and the Emperor to guide it to temporal felicity by means of philosophic instruction.[14] And

acquirement, and so full of friends, that to the widowed crown was the head of my son promoted." The words are Hugh Capet's. *L. c.* 22. 19; 25. 119: "Through this place needs one to keep the rein tight on the eyes, because for a little cause one might go astray." *L. c.* 28. 71: "The Hellespont, . . . a bridle still to pride of men."

Purg. 33. 141: "The bridle of my art lets me go no further."

Par. 7. 26: "For not enduring to the faculty that wills any curb, for its own advantage, that man who was never born, in damning himself, damned all his progeny."

13. *Par.* 5. 76: "Ye have the old and new Testament, and the Pastor of the Church who guides you; let this suffice you to your salvation." See *De Mon.* 3. 16. 5, and note 9.

14. From the philosophic nature of the *Convito* and the *Comedy* it is impossible to indicate here even the most important sections devoted to philosophy, classical or mediaeval. *Conv.* 3. 11. 2 defines philosophy as "No other than a friendship for knowledge; wherefore any one might be called a philosopher, according to that natural love which inspires all men with a desire for knowledge." *L. c.* 3. 11. 3: "Philosophy has for subject the understanding, and for form an almost divine love for the intelligible." *L. c.* 3. 12. 4: "Philosophy is a loving use of Wisdom; which exists above all in God, because in Him is supreme Wisdom, and supreme Love,

since none or few — and these with exceeding difficulty — could attain this port, were not the waves of seductive desire calmed, and mankind made free to rest in the tranquillity of peace, therefore this is the goal which he whom we call the guardian of the earth and Roman Prince should most urgently seek; then would it be possible for life on this mortal threshing-floor [15] to pass in freedom and peace. The order of the world follows the order inherent in the revolution of the heavens. To attain this order it is necessary that instruction productive of liberality and peace should be applied by the guardian of the realm, in due place and time, as dispensed by Him who is the ever present Watcher of the whole order of the heavens.

and supreme Power, which cannot exist elsewhere, except as it proceeds from Him."

In *Conv.* 4. 6. 9 relations are established between philosophic and imperial authority. "When joined together they are most useful and most full of power. . . . Unite the philosophical and the imperial authority to rule well and perfectly."

Philosophy is, *Purg.* 6. 45, "A light betwixt the truth and understanding."

Purg. 18. 46: "All that reason has seen I can tell thee."

15. "In ainola ista mortalium." The same word is used in the Italian form, "aiuola," in *Par.* 22. 151 and 27. 86.

And He alone foreordained this order, that by it in His providence He might link together all things, each in its own place.[16]

7. If this is so, and there is none higher than He, only God elects and only God confirms. Whence we may further conclude that neither those who are now, nor those who in any way whatsoever have been, called Electors [17] have the

16. *De Consol. Phil.* 3. 9: "All things Thou dost produce after the Divine Exemplar, Thou the most beautiful, carrying in thy mind the beautiful world."

This idea of God's foresight and the foreordination of all things in the universe is found repeatedly in all Dante's writings. See quotations in notes to *De Mon.* 1. 6.

Inf. 7. 72: "He, whose knowledge transcends all, made the heavens, and gave them their guide."

Par. 18. 118: "The Mind wherein thy motion and thy virtue have their origin."

17. "In the Holy Roman Empire the college of lay and ecclesiastical princes in whom the right of choosing the King of the Romans was vested. With the extinction of the Carolingian line, after the breaking up of the Empire of Charles the Great, the kingship in Germany became elective, the right of election residing in certain of the great feudatories, though just in whom or on what grounds is not clear from the early mediaeval accounts. An electoral body is vaguely mentioned in chronicles of 1152, 1198, and 1230, but there is no clear indication as to who composed the body. . . . The electoral college was first clearly defined in 1356 in the *Golden Bull*, a constitution for the Holy Roman Empire, issued by Emperor Charles IV. This document prescribed the exact

right to be so called; rather should they be entitled heralds of divine providence. Whence it is that those in whom is vested the dignity of proclamation suffer dissension among themselves at times, when, all or part of them being shadowed by the clouds of passion, they discern not the face of God's dispensation.

8. It is established, then, that the authority of temporal Monarchy descends without mediation from the fountain of universal authority. And this fountain, one in its purity of source,

form and manner of election of the 'King of the Romans and future Emperor.' Seven electors are there named, each holding some hereditary office in the Imperial court. (1) Archbishop of Mainz, as Archchancellor of the Holy Roman Empire for Germany; (2) Archbishop of Cologne, as Archchancellor for Italy; (3) Archbishop of Treves, as Archchancellor for the Gallic Provinces and Arles; (4) King of Bohemia, Arch-Cupbearer; (5) Count Palatine of the Rhine, Arch-Steward; (6) Duke of Saxony, Arch-Marshal; (7) Margrave of Brandenburg, Arch-Chamberlain. It seems that the electors had no legal powers beyond that of election, and though the German princes held that an election by the German electors held for the Holy Roman Empire, the popes contended that they alone as Vicars of God could bestow the Imperial dignity." — *New International Encyc.* See also Bryce, *Holy Roman Empire*, c. 14; Hallam, *Middle Ages*, chap. 8, part 2; Turner, *Germanic Constitution* (New York, 1888); the *Golden Bull* is translated in Henderson, *Select Historical Documents of the Middle Ages* (London, 1892).

flows into multifarious channels out of the abundance of its excellence.

9. Methinks I have now approached close enough to the goal I had set myself, for I have taken the kernels of truth from the husks of falsehood, in that question which asked whether the office of Monarchy was essential to the welfare of the world, and in the next which made inquiry whether the Roman people rightfully appropriated the Empire, and in the last which sought whether the authority of the Monarch derived from God immediately, or from some other. But the truth of this final question must not be restricted to mean that the Roman Prince shall not be subject in some degree to the Roman Pontiff, for felicity that is mortal is ordered in a measure after felicity that is immortal. Wherefore let Caesar honor Peter as a first-born son should honor his father, so that, refulgent with the light of paternal grace, he may illumine with greater radiance the earthly sphere over which he has been set by Him who alone is Ruler of all things spiritual and temporal.[18]

18. This harmonious rule of two powers by the acknowledgment of filial relationship between Pope and Emperor, by recognition of the differing character of their functions, is prayed for by Dante in many parts of the *Convito* and *Comedy*, and is stated most briefly and forcibly in *Purg.* 16. 107 :

"Rome, that made the good world, was wont to have two suns, that showed the one and the other road, both of the world and of God."

The close of the *Letter to the Princes and Peoples of Italy* is strangely like the close of the *De Monarchia*. Proclaiming Henry VII as the rightful Emperor, Dante writes: "This is he whom Peter, the Vicar of God, admonishes us to honor; whom Clement, now the successor of Peter, illuminates with the light of the apostolic benediction, in order that where the spiritual ray does not suffice, the splendor of the lesser light may illumine.'"

The dual organization of Church and Empire is also set forth in symbolic fashion in *Inf.* 14. 102 ff., and in Dante's vision *Purg.* 32.

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